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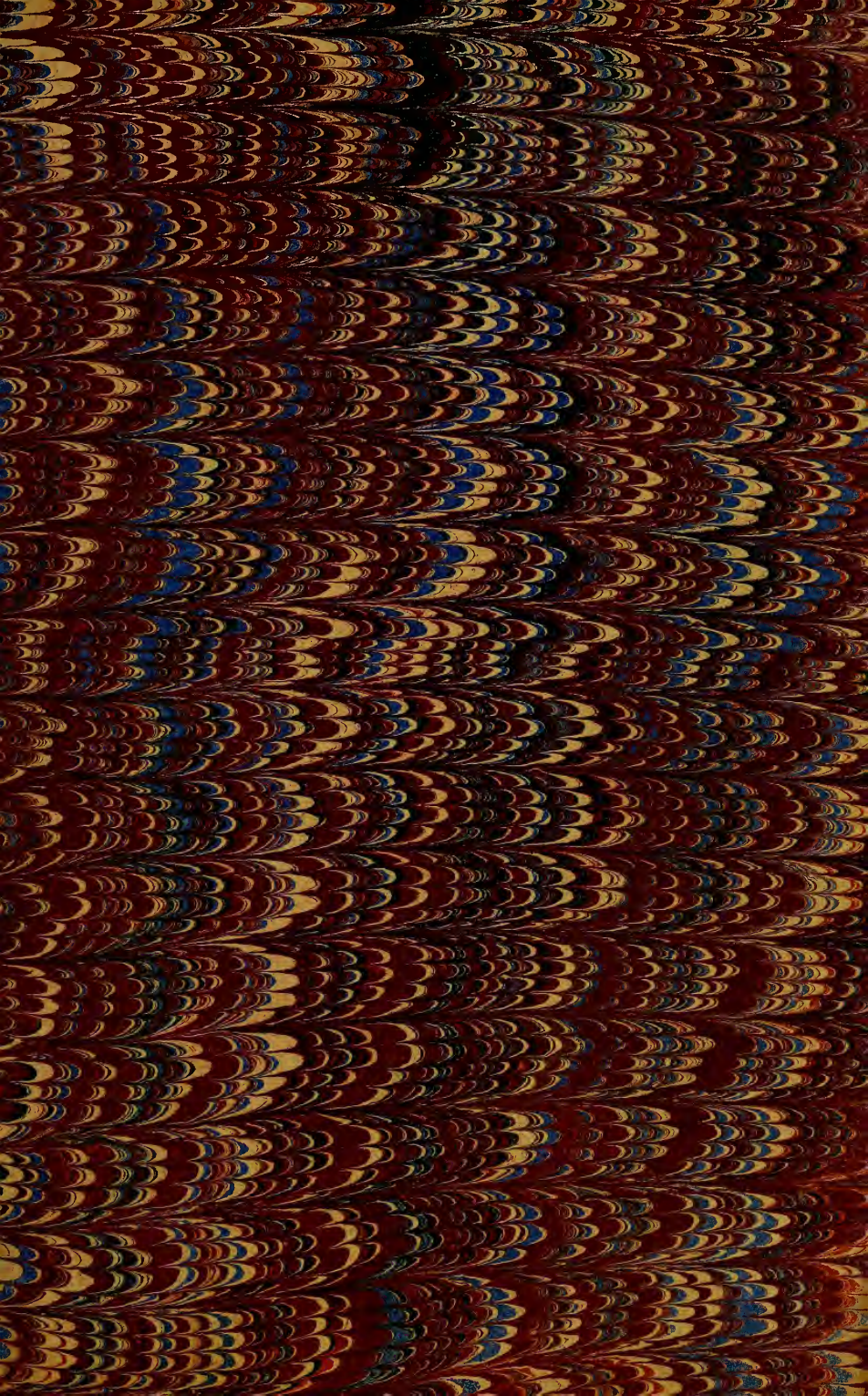

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A Portrait from Life in the Possession of the Author

DEDICATED

TO THE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED FANCIER.

A

TREATISE

ON THE ART OF

BREEDING AND MANAGING

TAME, DOMESTICATED, FOREIGN,

AND

FANCY PIGEONS,

CAREFULLY COMPILED FROM THE BEST AUTHORS, WITH OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS, CONTAINING ALL THAT IS NECESSARY TO BE KNOWN OF TAME, DOMESTICATED, FOREIGN AND FANCY PIGEONS, IN HEALTH, DISEASE, AND THEIR CURES.

BY

JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

"All that a Man knows, or ever will know,
is by Observation or Reflection."

LOCKE.

57333

PUBLISHED FOR, AND TO BE OBTAINED OF, THE AUTHOR,
81, UPPER STREET, ISLINGTON GREEN, LONDON, N.

1858.

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Ayer
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TO MY

YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED BROTHER

IN

THE FANCY.

The cause of my bringing out this Work is having sold all my Treatises on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler, 1st May, 1851, also all my Treatises on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons, 7th December, 1852. Under these circumstances, I consider there is no time to be lost in taking into consideration whether I will at empt to bring out an improved Work, or leave it to Fanciers more competent. All the ability in the World will not bring out a Work unless there is the "Will," and not perceiving the "Will" of the acknowledged best Fanciers, I have weighed it seriously and heavily in my mind that it would be anything but wisdom to leave young Fanciers, who are springing up every day, without a Work to guide them in the right path to acquire the knowledge of high standards, as laid down by gentlemen of the Fancy, touching the properties of what first-rate Pigeons of the different varieties ought to be.

I consider it would be cruel to leave the aspiring young Fancier of yesterday, or to-morrow, without a Work to guide him, and would be an act of base ingratitude on my part, considering the encouragement I have received from so large a body of the gentlemen of the Fancy.

In soliciting the favour of a very experienced Fancier, if it was not his intention to bring out a Work, provided he would favour me with his observations and reflections, I would put it into print and give him the benefit of it by attaching his name. He stated he had written a Work—that his intention was to have presented it to the Society he was a member of: unfortunately a difference arose in the Society, and it was his intention to burn the manuscript.

I sincerely hope I shall be more fortunate with others. Should I meet with no better success, by "hook or by crook" I must endeavour to bring out a Work without their assistance, for I consider it would be "too bad" to leave the young and aspiring Fancier without a Work to refer to. In soliciting the favour of other excellent Fanciers to give me assistance from their observations and reflections, promising to give them the credit by attaching their names, the answer I received from some was, "They did not know what to write about." I told them "Pigeons." I believe some few may assist me: I know a great many will not, simply because they don't approve of attempting to play the part of giving away their experience, which might prove a fatal part to them, while they play with such success their part of the "Dog in the Manger." It appears to me monstrous strange that those who have the power to write have not the "will," and those who have the "will" have not the power. I believe there are excellent Fanciers of Pigeons, who never put a single observation or reflection upon paper as regards "Pigeons." I sincerely hope you will not copy them, at the same time well knowing you cannot take a lesson out of their book.

You will perceive I am under great obligations and owe an immense debt of gratitude to B. P. Brent, Esq., the author and brother Fancier, for his kindness in allowing me permission to make what use I please of his series of papers on Pigeons, extracted from the "Poultry Chronicle," "The Field, the Farm, the Garden, and the Country Gentleman's Newspaper." I cannot find language to express the debt of gratitude I owe to him, especially for assistance on our native Doves, the Toys, and foreign Pigeons, &c. &c.

Also to John Boys, Esq., the highly-respected and worthy magistrate of Margate, Kent, for his truly beautiful notes, observations, and reflections on the Almond-Tumbler, which I have inserted in this Work after my Almond-Tumbler. You will perceive I owe these two gentlemen an immense debt of gratitude. Whether I shall be under obligations to others, I cannot inform you here, as this part of the Work will be in the hands of the printer to-morrow. If any, I promise to attach their names to the remarks I receive from them.

I have made up my mind to take a high standard, and you will think so, too, when I inform you, my inexperienced brother Fancier, that I shall attempt to bring out a Work,—or compilation,—or mass of information on the subject (Pigeons) I believe no man under the sun ever compiled. I am prompted to do so, believing it to be my last attempt or effort on Pigeons. "The subject will not allow of it, owing to the true, beautiful, and fixed standards, now 1858, being the same as when Mr. John Moore brought out his work, 'Columbarian,' 1735." I am sensible we have occasionally new varieties brought from foreign parts, which scarcely look like Pigeons. Fanciers feel grateful to exhibitors for exhibiting any new varieties, although they take little or no notice of them, comparatively speaking, simply because they cannot work any good with them.

It is the last of my thoughts to endeavour to impose upon Fanciers that the Work I am endeavouring to bring out is all new matter. The Fancy will not allow of it. As I stated before, the standard laid down by John Moore, 1735, is the same standard, with very trifling exceptions, to what the standards are now, 1858, the time of my endeavouring to write this Book, which I shall endeavour to prove by and bye. I think it would be wasting your time to read and mine in endeavouring to write more on the cause of my bringing out this Work. I told you the fact that I had sold all my former Works, and seriously considered whether it would be right and fitting to leave the young and inexperienced Fancier without a Work of reference worthy to guide him to a knowledge of the properties of the different varieties of Pigeons.

I scarce know whether it is worth my while to write, or yours to read, an idea just flashed across my mind; while I have my pen in hand, I may as well put it on paper, and see how it looks. You are aware there are some crotchetty men, who play the parts of old ladies with this disadvantage—their intellects being more weak than their legs, who draw inferences or assumes that a man must be an incorrigible blackguard, notwithstanding his station in life, whether a peer or artisan. I do not approve of writing on such poor, weak, addle-pated nincompoops, who are so weak in their heads as to be frightened at their own shadows (boys never do), which proves the brain is becoming soft (query, was it ever hard and clear?). After the death of Mr. Neal, late the excellent Chairman of the Southwark Columbarian Society, I had the honour to be chosen Chairman, and filled the office since October, 1853, being between four and five years. I have presided over between fifty and sixty members; I am not aware I ever heard a bad word escape one of the member's lips. 'Tis true at times visitors, not knowing the rules of the society, may make a trifling mistake, and if it is considered unparliamentary, he is called to order: no one was ever given in custody. You must not suppose our members are like members of Parliament, or that we turn our meetings into a bear-garden. I am informed the original Columbarian Society, that existed over 100 years (now unfortunately defunct), and presided over in the cream of its day by the late Sir John Sebright, numbered seven members of Parliament at one time, and, I strongly contend, none the worse for that.

Extracted from John Boys', Esq., notes.

"Those who criticise and scoff at this Fancy should take care not to become a Florist Fancier, or an admirer of improved Horses, Dogs or Sheep; nor exchange his ignorance for the knowledge of the best Piccatees, Dahlias, Tulips (worth ten

and twenty guineas a piece), Roses (of which there are 1500 varieties), Anemonies, Heart-ease, Ranunculusses, Auriculars, &c. &c. &c."

Extract from the "Cottage Gardener and Country Gentleman's Companion"

"Time was, not many years since, when 'a Pigeon Fancier' was associated in all men's minds with Costermongers, Pugilists, Rat-catchers, and Dog-stealers, and for no other reason that we can discern than that the majority of P geon Fanciers were artisans—men who lived in the courts, alleys, and other by-places of the metropolis. Such men, in those days, drew towards them no sympathy—they were the profane vulgar—the pariahs of Society—and their pursuits were deemed scarcely fit to be mentioned within audience of 'ears polite.' The Auricula and the Polyanthus became 'vulgar flowers,' for they were pets of the Manchester and Spitalfields weavers; and the remnant of this bad spirit lingers with those who talk of abandoning Pine-culture, now that this fruit is become familiar to 'common people.' Such pride and exclusiveness would have a heaven for gentility, with a wide gulph between that and the heaven of the poor.

"Gladdened are we by the knowledge that these sentiments are gradually lessening both in intensity and in the number of their disciples, and respect for the man, rather than a belief in the degradation of his pursuit, is now felt for him who shows a taste for the purer occupations of life.

"The cultivator of a Pansey in a court-yard of Whitechapel, and the breeder of Pigeons in Drury Lane, is now more often thought of as one who exhibits a praise-worthy frame of mind—and that the love of nature implanted in our first parents in their state of innocence being yet uneffaced, he is raised in the scale of worthiness. It is justly felt that he clings to all he can of the country—that though he cannot have a flower-border, he finds the best substitute within his reach in a flower-pot upon his window-sill—though he cannot have a poultry-yard, he has all he can of its tenants, over which to be solicitous in the pigeon-hutches of his attic. The man in whom such tastes remain and triumph over all opposing difficulties, so far from being altogether bad, is one in whom much that is estimable prevails. We have too long watched and made notes among Cottage Gardeners not to have had this fully proved, and to rejoice in the knowledge that it may be admitted as a rule, that he who loves the country loves virtue too.

"How strong the prejudice must have been against the pursuits of the masses was never so strongly demonstrated as in the prejudice against the breeding of Fancy Pigeons. The Dove, or Pigeon, is associated with all that is holy in Christianity, and with much that was held sacred in Mythology. Its very name in Hebrew, *Jona*, is derived from a word signifying gentleness, and from the day it brought the olive-leaf to the ark, both the plant and its winged bearer have been esteemed emblematical of peace. Even the Brahmins tell of their deities assuming the form of the Dove; Mahomed had an attendant spirit in the same form; and in the same similitude has appeared the Divine Spirit. Yet, notwithstanding this sacred association, notwithstanding the gentleness and beauty of the bird, its rearing and cultivation, until very recently, has been anathematized as 'a low pursuit.'

"Common sense is prevailing, and, consequently, prejudice is giving way even here, and we are well pleased with the prospect of seeing the breeding of Pigeons improve."

Provided two of our richest peers. One had a hobby in Race-horses, the other took no pleasure in them, but his hobby and delight was in Pigeons. He could equally afford to give as much for a Pigeon as the other for a Race-horse, and, after all, prove most economical, without being pregnant with the danger. There are very few among us that can afford to breed Race-horses, and few

among us but what could afford to breed a pair of Pigeons. Who ever heard of a man taking his own life on account of a Pigeon? What awful accounts have we read on account of a Race-horse!

It is almost more than flesh and blood can endure, by way of governing or commanding my temper, when I think of those Splatherers, who (as Solomon beautifully observes, "you may bruise in a mortar, and yet you cannot obtain gumption out of them") ridicule the Pigeon. It may be pardonable in some of these, simply because they are void of brains, not having been handed down to them; or they may have received an injury on a "large pimple," growing out at the top of the neck, which will never come to a head.

I am at a loss, also, to find language to express my gratitude to the gentlemen of the Press, for the very high testimonials they have thought fit to give upon my former Works (which are inserted at the end of the Work), with these flattering testimonials, combined with many entreaties from Fanciers of all parts of the country to whom I have applied for their observations, &c. &c., urging me to bring out the Work, I have hinted to them.

Solomon says there is nothing new under the sun. You will find there is something new in this Work. Some of you might be desirous of having a Preface to the Work. I have thought fit to put one at the end of the Work (provided you have time and inclination to read it), so as to bring you sooner to the point, "as the Lifeguardsman said to the Chinaman."

I shall, as before, in my former Work, take Mr. John Moore's Work, Columbarium, or the Pigeon-House, for my text, who I consider the pre-eminent of all Pigeon Fanciers. I shall call in the aid of professional men, who declare there is nothing like leather, and determined, like me, to stick to the last.

I have promised you great things—I believe not more than true. I will endeavour to cater and glean for you. I have taken a high standard: should I find I have taken too high a standard, or the Work is too big for me, it would be cowardly and a want of wisdom on my part to abandon it, and leave the young Fancier without a Work. Therefore, I hope you will accept the will for the deed. I have endeavoured to glean and cater for you, my inexperienced brother Fancier, and believe me, I am as ever thine, to serve thee, a brother Fancier, who has devoted time, care, and attention to the subject.

With grateful acknowledgments for past favours,

The Author,

JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

81, Upper Street, Islington,
Late 7, Islington Green,
London (N.).
5th March, 1858.

COLUMBARIUM:

OR,

THE PIGEON-HOUSE;

BEING

AN INTRODUCTION

TO A

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

TAME PIGEONS,

GIVING AN

ACCOUNT OF THE SEVERAL SPECIES KNOWN IN ENGLAND WITH THE METHOD OF BREEDING THEM, THEIR DISTEMPERS AND CURES.

The two chief Advantages, which a real Acquaintance with Nature brings to our Minds, are first, by instructing our Understandings and gratifying our Curiosities; and next by exciting and cherishing our Devotion.

BOYLE'S EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY, p. 2.

BY JOHN MOORE.

LONDON:

Printed for J. WILFORD, behind the Chapter-House in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

1735

DEDICATION.

TO

SIR WILLIAM STAPLETON, Baronet.

Sir,

1.—If either Philosophy or Novelty have any allurements, the following performance, I flatter myself, will afford you some entertainment.

2.—Many subjects the Naturalists seem to have exhausted. Horses and Dogs, and most of the animals that serve for the conveniences or amusements of life, have undergone the nicest enquiries; while the Pigeon, that contributes in some measure to both, a domestic as it were of ours, has been totally neglected.

3.—With a partiality usually shewn to the victor, the Hawk has engaged the pen of many a writer: but his prey, that seems to fly to us for protection, has scarce met with that, which even the wisdom of the Legislature has allowed it.

4.—I have endeavoured therefore in the following sheets to do some justice to this bird, and have prescribed the best methods, which long experience has furnished me with, for its propagation and preservation.

5.—I have wisely learnt from it to seek a proper refuge against any ill-natured censures. To this purpose I beg leave to prefix your name to this work, and to assure the World that you who have purchased Pigeons at very considerable prices, don't think the subject below your regard, and that the Author is,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

J. MOORE.

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1. (Eaton.)—To my young and inexperienced brother Fancier. I have thought fit to Number the Paragraphs of the late Mr. John Moore's Work, (although it is not so in the Original,) conceiving it to be the easiest mode I could adopt, it being my intention briefly of calling your attention to some of the Paragraphs contained in his Work, and having carefully read and entertaining so high an opinion of his work—COLUMBARIUM, or The Pigeon House, I shall, as I observed before, be brief as possible, so as not to swell the book out beyond the reach of the more humble Fancier.

2 (Eaton) and 3. (Eaton.)—Mr Moore appears deeply to regret the Pigeon should have been so long neglected by our Naturalists, while Horses, Dogs, and Hawks, have undergone the nicest enquiry.

4. (Eaton.)—There is not any account upon record, that any Pigeon-Fancier (for no other could do it) ever contributed so much original matter to the Pigeon-Fanciers as did the late Mr. John Moore, which I will endeavour to prove, by and bye, before I have gone through his Work; he was the Pre-eminent of Pigeon-Fanciers.

5. (Eaton.)—It would appear there *were* illnatured Fanciers when Mr John Moore wrote his Book, 1735; being a good general, and anticipating some illnatured censures, he sought protection under a Fancier, Sir William Stapleton, Baronet, to whom he dedicated his Work. I think it will be right here to inform you, who and what Mr. Moore was, and taking the most simple way, the best: it not being my intention of publishing his account of some Medicines prepared by him, with a faithful narrative of some Cures effected by them; the account of the Medicines and Cures take up one quarter of the book, and has nothing relating to Pigeons. Mr. M. describes himself thus:—Mr. John Moore, Apothecary, at the Pestle and Mortar, in Lawrence Pountneys Lane, the first great gates on the left hand from Cannon Street, who formerly lived at the Pestle and Mortar, in Abchurch Lane, London.

THE

PREFACE.

6.—Though the History of Birds in general has been given us by many hands, and in some parts in a very accurate manner, yet the study of this genus of birds seems in a great measure to be neglected by most of our naturalists, who have given us but very short cursory descriptions of some of the species, in which notwithstanding they have been guilty of many great mistakes, and entirely left out many others in their lists. It has amazed me to see so great an indolence on this particular branch spread itself in such an universal manner through all our Ornithologists, especially considering the vast opportunities they have had, or might have had, to have given their readers the utmost satisfaction by the most exact and ample descriptions. It is notorious to all mankind, what vast numbers of these birds in all the species have been and are still kept in this kingdom, not only by persons in a lower rank of life, but even by persons of the greatest distinction and the first degrees of quality, who have held these birds in so great esteem, that they have endeavoured to attain at

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6. (Eaton.)—Entertaining so high an opinion of Mr. Moore's Work, it is not my intention to quarrel with him, he appears to me, to be somewhat hard to please, like many more in the World—in several parts of his Work he bitterly complains of the Naturalists and Ornithologists, of their indolence in not giving us an account of Fancy Pigeons, and those that did gave us but very short cursory descriptions, and in this have been guilty of great mistakes. Mr. Moore might have saved himself a good deal of uneasiness, if he had only asked himself the question, How can a learned man write on a subject he does not understand? It must be the work of a Pigeon Fancier to write on Fancy Pigeons, considering the standards they are endeavoured to be brought up to; to sum it up, those who did not write, and those who did, did not please Mr. Moore. Imagine for a moment, two of your most eminent wranglers, who had never kept a Pigeon in their lives, were set to wrangle on the five properties of a Pigeon, a subject they were totally unacquainted with, knowing no more of the five properties of the Pigeon than the Pigeon knew about them; it would therefore follow, as wise men, the less they say the better. I will now, my young Fancier, put it to you, will you remain quiet and not write, or write upon a subject you do not sufficiently understand. Mr. Moore, in continuation of the same paragraph, says: "especially considering the vast opportunities, they have had, or might have had," "what opportunities they might have had," learned men, could not be made Pigeon Fanciers in five minutes;" neither by placing Fancy Pigeons in a shew pen for them to make their observations upon, would have enabled them to have written upon the five properties; they may have "exclaimed as many others at first sight—very pretty, very pretty indeed," which reminds me of a gentleman, a good Fancier, who retired into the country, taking with him his best birds, but what disheartened him when he bred a good bird, he had no one about him to shew it to, who knew how to appreciate its properties, and others who saw it said it is, very pretty: he would rather have heard a fault found with one of the five properties, by a good Fancier, than that anything but sweet music, by persons who do not understand them, by saying very pretty, very pretty indeed.

least an experimental knowledge of them, purchasing, at a great expense, as many of the distinct sorts as they could hear of, and cultivating them in their own houses; RICHARD ATHERTON, Esq., of Atherton Hall, in Lancashire, who was a gentleman both of will and ability to prosecute his fancy in this branch of natural history, was building a stately house in Lancashire, on the top of which he designed to have four turrets, in which his pigeons were to be disposed according to the nearness of relation between the different species, but death put an end to the undertaking in the year 1726, to the immense grief of all those gentlemen of the Fancy who had the honour of his acquaintance: he was a very compleat judge of a Pigeon and would spare neither cost nor trouble to procure the best; he had one pouting cock which he valued at five pound, and a very choice collection of many other kinds. The same methods have been taken in most other countries as well as England, to gain this experimental knowledge, as in Holland, France, Spain, Germany, Turkey, Persia, and Morocco. In the three last of which places, the Monarchs themselves have officers, called keepers of the Pigeons. Having thus mentioned the King of Morocco, give me leave to entertain you with the following story out of the Sieur. Mouette in his travels through that kingdom.

(EATON.)—The loss of a spirited Fancier like RICHARD ATHERTON, Esq., of Atherton Hall, Lancashire, who, as Mr. MOORE observes, was a gentleman both of will and ability, besides being a very complete judge of a Pigeon, and would spare neither cost or trouble to procure the best, and had a very fine collection, must have been severely felt by the gentlemen of the Fancy of that day; and is equally as severely felt by the gentlemen of the Fancy of the present day, when they sustain the loss of a good Fancier. It is quite clear that in Mr. MOORE'S day, as now, that not only the lower rank of life, but even persons of the greatest distinction and the first degrees of quality kept Pigeons; I would here particularly guard you against having too great a variety of Pigeons, otherwise you will know a little of the species, but nothing about one as it ought to be known. It is a grievous thing, when we hear talk of a man being so clever at all things, yet nobody would employ him, simply because he is not sufficiently clever in one thing; the fact is, he is Jack-of-all-trades and master of none. Now I sincerely hope you will not make such a Fancier as this; I have heard some of the best Carrier Fanciers, and some of the best Pouter Fanciers, when asked their opinion on the Tumbler, have stated that they knew nothing of the properties of the bird, not having studied them, owing to having given their whole attention to one species, either the Carrier or Pouter; nevertheless, I should be very sorry to give either of these Carrier or Pouter Fanciers (I have in my mind's eye) the choice of going into my aviaries or lofts, to pick out what Tumblers they chose, although, comparatively speaking, they did not know the Tumbler, as compared to the Carrier or Pouter. I am sorry whenever I hear of a Carrier or Pouter Fancier giving them up; they are most splendid birds, and well worthy the attention of good Fanciers. It is possible there may be a few Fanciers that have a good general knowledge of Fancy Pigeons, there are many more who labour under a delusion by supposing they know, which they do not. The five properties of the Tumbler, Carrier, and the Pouter, are so opposed to each other in the standard as laid down by the Gentlemen of the Fancy, that only bothers and confuses the young Fancier if he attempts too much at once; therefore, my advice to the young Fancier is, to make himself master of one of the species of the Fancy first, and I have no doubt his observations and reflections will teach him that he has his work to do, in giving his whole attention to one species. I have very little opinion of a person becoming A. 1. in the Fancy, who strives for too much at once; therefore, I caution you not to attempt with different sorts. But to return to Mr. MOORE'S amazement and astonishment, he might have saved all this, if he had simply drawn this inference—How very few were competent to write on the subject, it being the work of a Fancier.

7.—There was among the other captives in Morocco, one Bernard Bausset, a youth about twenty-five years of age, and one of the family of the Baussets, ancient consuls of Marseilles and born in the town of Aubaigne in Provence; he had the keeping of the King's Pages' Clothes and Arms, and of the Stores laid up at the first gate of the Seraglio; besides which, he taught two of the king's children to speak Spanish. That prince having taken a liking to, and desiring to raise him higher than the Christian religion would allow of; he tried all possible means to oblige him to become a Mahometan, and perceiving he could not prevail by fair means, very often had recourse to severity and ill usage. Being one day highly provoked at his constancy, and laying hold of the pretence of two or three bits of straw he saw lying before him, and of Bausset's neglecting to cause the way between the two gates of the Seraglio to be swept, he caused him to be stripped stark naked, and two blacks, with each of them a handful of leather straps to give him above

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7. (Eaton.)—In part Paragraph 6 and ending with Paragraph 12, Moore says, "having thus mentioned the king of Morocca, give me leave to entertain you with the following story, &c.," read ending with Paragraph 12. I think it amounts to something more than a story, I will endeavour to weigh it in the scales of truth and see if it proves wanting. A youth about twenty-five years of age, &c. There are some of our English bonny buxom lasses, who would not mind taking this "youth" of twenty-five years of age into captivily and making a jolly good husband of him, it is certain he has some good properties about him. A Mahometan trying to make a Christian a Mahometan very natural proves him zealous, as we Christians are to make Mahometans Christians, and praiseworthy on both parts. But who stole his meals? Were it those who prayed for him? which you will read by and bye. Again, a wall three hands thick, was it made of mud? The lyons undermined, did they burrow like rabbits? Again, he ran and leaped in among four lyons of monstrous size, who had not been fed for three days. He was more pluckey than I should have been, for if I was ordered to be hung to-morrow, I should confer the honour on the Sheriff, or some of his partners, to carry me to the gallows; not being desirous of accelerating, aiding, or assisting my own destruction, if there by hook or by crook, with the utmost courtesey and politeness, solicit the favour from the finisher, polisher, or who gives the finishing touch to the law, to have the kindness to place the rope under my arms, as I was rather ticklish about my neck. Again, we were all at prayers. Who were all at prayers?—Mahometans praying for a Christian, utterly impossible. Again, made holes through the wall, this is why I asked in a former part if the walls were made of mud, if of stone, these people would have been very useful at Sevastapool, or any strong fortified place, at a seige—impossible. Again, a Spanish woman, having a abundance of wit without the least immorality, gained the king's affections. I have nothing to say here, simply very natural, only the difference of religion; besides it will give me time to think the more. This woman had the charge of the king's pigeons and fed the lyons, kept them three days without food, a wide contrast between feeding pigeons and lyons, she must have been a man of all work, I think anything but a tender hearted one. There is not any account given of her that she was fond of reading novels, otherwise I should think, as we have it recorded, when the husband exclaimed, when he found the scrubbing brush in the beef-steak pie, "Was not she a tidy one." Again, all the Pages ran and left the king alone, "query," at all events not very accomplish Pages, or an easy, soft, merciful behaved Mahometan king—I think this "wo'nt" do; Bausset leaped in at four came out at nine. This is called a story, I believe it goes further, and may with truth be set down as a downright lie; call things by their proper names, then I do not care what you call them. I do not accuse Mr. Moore of telling a lie, he distinctly states he copied it out of the Sicur Mouette, in his travels through that kingdom. The only part worthy of notice, as Mr. Moore observes, is, it shews that even kings have been proud to confer the greatest favors upon those who were no more than the keepers of their pigeons.

five hundred stripes; so that his body was all over as black as a shoe. In this condition, he sent him with two heavy chains to be cured in our prison, and several days after called for, and asked him, why he stayed in the Bitte, so they call the Slaves' Prison, whilst his meal was stolen. It seems that day a sack had been taken out of one of the magazines that are near the gate of the Seraglio. Sir, said Bausset, I stayed there ever since you sent me, and durst not come away, without your orders. Hereupon the king struck at him with a spear, and hurt him under the right eye, and then ordered his guards to cast him into the Lyon's Walk: that walk is like a court between four high walls, joining to the castle, and was parted from our Bitte or prison, by a wall, but three hands in thickness, which the lyons once undermined, and had like to have got in to us.

8.—The youth hearing that sentence pronounced, ran to the ladder that went up to the place, intending to throw himself in, before any other came to do it. The king dismounted from his horse, and went up after, bidding him change his religion, or he should be immediately devoured by the lyons. Bausset resolutely answered, he was not at all concerned at it, since that was the way to make him happy; for they could take but one life from him, which would end gloriously, and he had rather the lyons should devour his body, than that his soul should become a prey to devils. Hereupon the king drew near the edge of the wall, to cast him down headlong; but Bausset, who observed him narrowly, perceiving his design, leaped himself amidst four lyons, of a monstrous size, who had not been fed in three days.

9.—Those creatures beholding their prey, rose up, and roaring put themselves in a posture to fall on him, whilst he offered up his prayers to heaven. But they as if with-held by some secret Power, presently lay down again. Yet some of them soon after got up, and made towards him, and being near passed by, without touching him, among the rest, one that was most ravenous came up to him seven times, and passed by as often. Thus the captive, like another Daniel, praised God, amidst those fierce creatures, which had not the power to hurt him.

10.—The king, who withdrew as soon as he fell in, sent twice to see whether he was devoured, and in case he was not, to offer to take him out, if he would turn Mahometan; but he returned them the same answer he had given to the king himself. We were all at our prayers to implore the divine assistance upon him, and having made some holes through the wall, that parted us from lyons to see, we encouraged him to be resolute and die, rather than renounce his religion, which he zealously promised us.

11.—In the meanwhile a Spanish woman captive went to petition the king for Bausset's deliverance. She was called Mary of the Conception, born at St. Lucar de Barrameda in Andalusia; came to Mamora, to carry home her husband, who was banished, and they were both taken returning into Spain. Having abundance of wit, without the least immodesty, she had gained the king's affections, who granted her whatsoever favour she asked either for Moors or Christians. She was called the common mother of all persons in distress, for she never thought much to sue for them. Her husband, whose name was John de Cormona, and she, had had the

charge of the king's Pigeons and fed the lyons. The king having a kindness for Bausset, was pleased she should intercede, and gave orders immediately to have him taken out. No sooner had he spoke the word, than all the pages ran, striving who should be foremost, and left the king alone, at the first entrance into the Seraglio, which so highly offended him, that he called them back, and laid eight of them on the floor, all bloody and wounded with his scimitar.

12.—However, when his wrath was appeased, the captive woman redoubled her entreaties so earnestly, that he could not refuse her, but ordered that she should go with her husband and one Prieur, a surgeon of Poitiers, to take Bausset from among the lyons, which was accordingly done, when he had been there five hours ; for he leaped in at four, and came out at nine. Some days after, the lyons shewed not the same respect to three Faquers or Doctors of the Law of Mahomet, who took upon them to reprove the king for his cruelty, and were therefore cast into the same place, and immediately torn in pieces by the lyons. This story was well attested, brought to Paris, and put into the hands of the reverend fathers the mercenarians of Paris, to satisfy such as may call the truth of it in question. However, I had not made use of this story, only as it shews that even kings have been proud to confer the greatest favours upon those who were no more than the keepers of their Pigeons. Thus we see how the knowledge of these birds has been propagated and encouraged in most parts of the World at a very great expense, while every observer had still this natural History to obtain in the same experimental and costly way, and was often grossly imposed upon by having a mixed strain put into his hands instead of the real species ; yet notwithstanding all this, and the ease wherewith it might have been accomplished, I find an almost profound silence among the Naturalists upon this head.

13.—I have, therefore, ventured first to launch forth into this new science, not being insensible that I shall leave much room for others to make great improvements, if any shall hereafter think it worth their while to follow that track which I have only pointed out to them ; and I hope the learned world know how to make allowances for a first attempt in the

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13. (Eaton.)—To the young and inexperienced Fancier,—I am particularly desirous of calling your attention to Paragraph 13. ; it is nearly worth the whole of the paragraphs put together, until we come to consider the properties of Pigeons as laid down by the standards, which we have to breed up to and surpass if possible.

(Eaton.)—The late Mr. John Moore states positively, without evasion or equivocation, that he was the first to launch forth into this new science. I am bound to believe him, having never seen an earlier Work on the subject. At the time I am writing, 1858,—Mr. Moore's Work was published in 1735, being 123 years ago,—the inference I draw, it is true ; it would be folly in a young Fancier to state it was not true, unless he was prepared to prove it by books of an earlier date, as old Fanciers would know, that the young Fancier was not old enough to recollect it. It is my intention to reprint the whole of the late Mr. John Moore's Work upon Pigeons word for word, and if any inaccuracies arise, it will be the fault of the Compositor, it not being my wish to alter a single letter, believing his Work to be the original upon Fancy Pigeons, and is the groundwork from which all other Works on the subject have been taken, which, by-and-bye, I shall endeavour to prove ; had it not been the fact, Fanciers of that time would have contradicted ; Authors, Compilers, and Commentators, would have handed it down to posterity ; and to prove my assertion, I would recommend

the young Fancier to obtain as large a library as possible on the subject. I shall give you the late Mr. JOHN MOORE'S Work, Columbarium: or the Pigeon House, word for word. There will not be any occasion for you to strive to obtain a copy, and which if you did, I believe would be labour in vain; you may strive to obtain an earlier copy.

(EATON.)—I would recommend you to obtain a Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, inscribed to JOHN MAYOR, Esq., the Author concealing his name, printed for and sold by C. BARRY, Ingram Court, Fenchurch Street; sold likewise by P. STEVENS, near Stationer's Hall, Ludgate Street; A. WEBLEY, Holborn; and J. WALTERS, Charing Cross, 1765; also a Work—The Complete Pigeon Fancier, by DANIEL GIRTIN, Esq. printed for ALEXANDER HOGG, 16, Paternoster Row, London; also, a Treatise on the Almond Tumbler, Author not named, printed for ALEXANDER HOGG & Co., 16, Paternoster Row, London, 1802 and 1804; also, the Naturalists Library, that part which relates to Pigeons; Ornithology, Vol. 5th, part 3rd, by PRIDEUX JOHN SELBY, Esq., F.R.S., E.F.L.S., M.W.S., &c. &c.; W. H. LIZARS, 3, St. James's Square, Edinburgh; S. HIGHLEY, 32, Fleet Street, London; and W. CURRY, Jun., and Co., Dublin, 1835; also, the Dovecote and the Aviary, by the REVEREND E. S. DIXON, M.A.; JOHN MURRAY, Albemarle Street, London, 1851; also, PETER BOSWELL, on Pigeons, sold by GEORGE ROUTLEDGE, 36, Soho Square, London.

(EATON.)—I cannot help thinking but that I am justified, and I think this the best place to call the attention of the Gentlemen of the Fancy to a very great error, that is printed in a little Book,—being a compilation on Bees, Pigeons, Rabbits, and Canary Birds, by PETER BOSWELL, Esq.,—Greenlaw, to be obtained of GEORGE ROUTLEDGE, 36, Soho Square, London, 1846. The "error" which I wish to call your attention to, is in page 42, of the Work, and runs thus :—The best authenticated Treatise on Domesticated Pigeons, especially regarding the fancy varieties, was published by BARRY, of Fenchurch Street, in 1765. That Treatise has been succeeded by MOORE'S Columbarium, and some others, founded on their authority;—the very reverse is the fact of the case, Mr. MOORE'S Work "preceded instead of succeeded," exactly thirty years. Mr. MOORE'S Work was published in 1735; whereas, the Work published by BARRY, of Fenchurch Street, was 1765, and is inscribed to JOHN MAYOR, Esq., the Author concealing his name. It is very likely that JOHN MOORE, the Pigeon Fancier, was in Heaven at the time the Work was printed. (There is something in the year 1765 which I never can forget, and that was, the year my late excellent and much respected Father was born, December 7th, 1765.) The compilation in which this error is discovered, is, as I said before, a little Work, and, although there are errors in it which could only be discovered by Pigeon Fanciers, it is carefully compiled by PETER BOSWELL, Esq., that if he had the two Works by him, the error would not have crept in, and no doubt will be rectified in the next edition; at the same time little knowing how much of his Work, although not taken direct from Mr. MOORE'S Work, (possibly he never saw it) contains so much original matter belonging to Mr. MOORE, but taken from MAYOR'S Work 1765, which he copied the greater part from MOORE'S Work 1735. I have obtained all the Works on Pigeons I possibly could, and never read in any old Work that MOORE succeeded MAYOR, "on the contrary," MAYOR succeeded MOORE 30 years, the dates of the book will prove, which I have by me, MOORE 1735. I am rather surprised MAYOR had not a little more candour or honour in acknowleding MOORE, from whose works he cabbaged the greater part of his work, he simply mentions his name twice throughout his work.—See 238 Paragraph, MAYOR, p. 141, "So far Mr. MOORE, &c." and paragraph 246, MAYOR, p. 125, but, as Mr. MOORE observes, "'Tis pity to seperate those venerable sons of clergy and female saints." GIRTIN also only mentions MOORE'S name twice, Paragraph 42, GIRTIN, p. 135, "we are indebted to the late ingenious JOHN MOORE, &c. &c., and Paragraph 73, GIRTIN, p. 113, "In treating of the diseases on Pigeons, we shall follow the late Mr. JOHN MOORE, &c., &c." At this time there is a great demand of having the right men in their right places, and it may be as well to have authors on Pigeons in the right places, viz. :—

Mr. JOHN MOORE	1735
Mr. JOHN MAYOR	1765
Mr. DANIEL GIRTIN	

I have a very strong presentiment, and cannot help believing in my conscience but that Mr. DANIEL GIRTIN was the author of the work dedicated to Mr. JOHN MAYOR, the author concealing his name. That he afterwards brought out the same work, with few additions and remarks, and attached his name to it—DANIEL GIRTIN.

(Eaton.)—I informed you the little Work treated upon Bees, Pigeons, Rabbits, and Canary Birds. Allow me simply to inform you all I know about Bees. On one fine summer's evening, about 50 years ago, a schoolfellow and I were going to a place called the Pound, in the New River, to bathe, in passing through Canonbury Fields we stopped to see a gentleman who was at Fly Fishing with house flies, which he had in a bottle, we were surprised how fast he caught the various fish ; we made up our minds to try our luck at this new science of Fishing, for neither of us, I believe, had seen it before, at all events, with such success ; I can almost fancy I now see us on the bank, for I have a strong recollection of the fact—although my schoolfellow, brother Bob, (George Freeman), for we were two young disciples of old "Izaac," is dead ; my much respected old schoolfellow, Henry Major, and myself followed him to the grave—with our traps ready to begin Fly Fishing ; we had stiff bottom rods, this was not from choice but from necessity, we knew well what we stood in need of ; having our pockets oftener to let than tenanted, I hope I may be spared the trouble of trying to impress it upon your minds that we were poor, not from choice but from necessity. All being now ready to commence Fly Fishing, we discovered we had made a little mistake, that of coming without the flies in the bottle ; we were too good pupils of old Izaac to be daunted, owing to our forgetfulness, recollecting that hope and patience supports the Fisherman. It was a beautiful fine evening when we saw the gentleman Fly Fishing ; but the following evening when we thought of going at it, was bitter cold, we looked round the fields and trees for May flies (although in June), or any other fly, we were not particular, flies being scarce owing to the coldness of the evening, we looked hard for flies, it was labour in vain ; we got disheartened for that evening and agreed to put up our traps. I felt as though I wanted something to warm and waken me up ; at this moment a Bee came flying by, I knocked it down with my hat, told my schoolfellow I xpected to take a large Chub with it ; I almost imagined I heard the fish say to my bait as I intended—I'll eat you, body and all ; I expected the hook would stick in his gill or somewhere ; I was not particular, but reasoned that a large bait deserved a large fish, I was sanguine in my mind I should catch a rum-un—so I did ; have a little patience with me, I will tell you all about it, I was a good arithmetician, and understood Cocker well for my age ; a little learning is a dangerous thing,—I was aware the Bee had a sting, and supposed the fang or trunk in the head was the sting, but not be wrong in my Cocker, and it is acknowledged in a multitude of council there is safety. I consulted my brother Bob where its sting was, he pointed to me its fang or trunk, which made me doubly sure and confirmed my opinion, (I thought two heads better than one if they were only calves' heads, and then best hot, which they proved to be) ; although I had knocked the Bee down with my hat, I had only stunned it; being aware, as I thought, where its sting was, and acting with the utmost caution, narrowly watching with my eyes his trunk, I proceeded with the courage of an Angler, but with an especial eye (on its trunk lest it should sting me) to place it on the hook ; quick as lightning I dropped my rod, as though red hot ; I was half way down the field on one leg before you could have said "Jack Robinson," my brother Bob ran after me, to know what was the matter ; do you suppose I could stop and tell him,—no more than the man with the steam leg,—if it had been possible, I could have stopped, it would have bothered me, not knowing myself ; my brother Bob no doubt thought I was crack'd ; he certainly was right this time, decidedly wrong as to where the sting was ; I knew I was crack'd, it was very small, what it wanted in size was made up with virulence. I have often thought of it in my sober moments. At last, my legs stop'd, when I came to my old school-fellow all in a sweat—no doubt, a cold sweat—I had a colour like a turnip, although my head red-hot ; we looked volumes at each other, the subject would not do to dwell upon. It is said there is not any mistakes in figures, although persons may be out in their Cocker ; I had several ideas in this little affair, I thought I wanted warming, and, waking up, I thought a large bait deserved a large fish ; I made sure of catching a rum-un, I did not care where the hook caught so it held fast, it was all carried out by the Bee hooking in the tender part of the thumb—a Jack, a John, and a Flat—it might have been worse, it might have jaw lock'd me. Several fly rods since then have come into my possession ; I believe I never attempted since, whenever I see a Bee I am lost in wonder and astonishment at it. Those beautiful words of Watts, How doth the little busy Bee, &c.—"How" indeed, too big for Solomon to answer—comes to my mind, at the the same time always keeping a respectful distance from them for auld lang syne ; I richly deserved all I

got, for knocking down an industrious Bee, and received my reward, I have not the slightest wish to scrape acquaintance with them again ; I apologized to you to allow me to tell you all I knew about Bees, I have now informed you.

(Eaton.)—In Paragraph 14, Mr. Moore says, I sometimes endeavoured to relax the mind, by throwing in some diverting parts of history, which though not altogether necessary to the main purport of the Treatise, will, I hope, answer the end for which they were designed. Mr. Moore knew, as a wise man, there was a time for all things—a time for hard thinking, and a time to relax the mind. I am confident no one will make a good Fancier who has not his head placed on his shoulders in the right way, and his brains properly scraped, and then it will avail you nothing unless you exercise those brains in deeply thinking. A thorough good and acknowledged Fancier, never acquired his experience by mere accident, but the result of observation and reflection. I entertain very little opinion of that Gentleman joining a Fancy Pigeon Society, supposing he knows all about it, unless it be true, (if so, so much the better,) or it opens his eyes to conviction that he is at sea or all abroad, there is hope this person, in due time, will be a Fancier ; on the contrary, that Gentleman never will that imagines he sees and perceives all at once, or first sight. It is possible he may do for the first Lord of the Treasury, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Cabinet Minister, or any thing else (save a Fancier.) It is wise to mind our stops, and be a little too slow, than like the fast Man upon Town, or his Country Cousin—the Go-a-head man. To return to my old friend Cocker, to give us the total of this Paragraph ; Mr. Moore knew from his observation and reflection, there was not any possibility of gaining a thorough knowledge of Fancy Pigeons, but from long study and experience. He was fully sensible that studying the points and properties of the birds are often tedious and irksome, therefore threw in some diverting parts of History ; I have no doubt some of the young Fanciers will think I handle the matter too serious ; I do not wish to deceive the Fancier, but plainly to inform him, he has his work to do ; I am fully as sensible as Moore, it is dry work, and requires to be enlivened up by facts, stories, and anecdotes. I sincerely hope I shall be able to get up the steam, and render the subject as pleasant as possible, giving everything its due consideration, or weighing it in the balance. I fancy I am of too serious a mood to try my hand at wit, at the same time, it is not Philosophy to be unhappy to-day, because we may be miserable to-morrow, I cannot help thinking we may as well be merry as sad. I cannot tell, my young Fanciers, how you feel in reading it ; I, who am writing it, feel dry, and as Parsons beautifylly wind-up, having finished this Pint, let's have a Full Pot.

(Eaton.)—I hope against hope, you have obtained the small Library of Books, written by various Authors on the Subject, we have under consideration, as before recommended ; at all events, I hope you have tried. It may be that you have obtained the Works. My object in advising you to obtain as large a Library of Works, and of the earliest dates, upon the subject ; then commencing by reading carefully over a few times the earliest date, say John Moore, 1735, then read the Work dedicated to John Mayor, 1765, thirty years after Moore, carefully comparing the Work 1765, to the Work, and as you read and compare Works together, interline with your pen what you find in the second book, what you find in the first, do not interline that which is not in the first book, which leaves the un-interlined original matter due to the Work 1765 ; follow up plan by comparing Daniel Girtin's Work, without date, to the two former works, interline all you have read before, but not that information which is not contained in the two prior books, which leaves the un-interlined original matter due to Mr. Daniel Girtin ; proceed in the same way with the Columbarian Work of 1802 and 1804, and that which you do not interline is original matter, is due to the late celebrated Almond Fancier and the Author —— Windus, Esq., Solicitor, Southampton Buildings, Holborn. Follow up the same plan with regard to the Naturalist's Library, vol. 5, part 3, on Pigeons, by Prideux John Selby, Esq. F.R.S., E.F.L.S., M.W.S., &c. &c. 1835. Also, the Dovecote and the Aviary, by the Rev. E. S. Dixon, M.A., &c. &c. 1851, and what you have not read or discovered in prior dates give each Author according to the earliest dates the credit of originality, and nothing more ; when you come to read over all the Works you can obtain, after my style of interlining, you will then find out to whom the credit is due, as to originality. Read, also, the Natural Histories, Encyclopædias, some of the larger Dictionaries, &c. &c. in search of original matter, then discover how far the Works are the echo and re-echo of Mr. Moore's

advancement of any kind of knowledge.(13*) I am very sensible that proper Icons are of very great service to illustrate a Work of this nature; but this piece being in its kind new, and not being able to guess at what reception it may meet with from the World; I knew the expenses of exact cuts would swell the price too high for many that may have a mind to purchase this Work; and on the contrary, that if they are not delineated with the utmost accuracy according to their various characteristicks, they only puzzle the mind, and render the description of them more obscure; and, therefore, I chose rather to have none, than bad ones.

14.—In the sequel of this Work, I have endeavoured as near as possible to give exact criterions for the knowledge of each distinct species; and being aware that bare descriptions are often tedious and irksome, I have sometimes endeavoured to relax the mind by throwing in some diverting parts of history, which though not altogether necessary to the main purport of the Treatise, will I hope answer the end for which they were designed.

15.—Being well assured that this book will fall into the hands of many of the illiterate part of mankind, who are altogether ignorant of the terms of Art, and even in the meaning of many words of more frequent use among the politer part; I have for the sake of such added an Alphabetical Explanation of the less common words made use of in this Treatise.

16.—So hoping it will have the desired effect, of pushing on some abler Pen, I commit it at once to the candid censure of Mankind.

Work, and Works of prior date; if Mr. MOORE had seen some of the Works recently published he would have thought it a burlesque upon Pigeons.

(EATON.)—Mr. MOORE, in the same Paragraph, states, "Not being insensible that I shall leave much room for others to make great improvements." Query? I very much doubt whether any Fancier could surpass his Observations and Reflections; if a Fancier could not accomplish it, no other Writer could; with regard to others following in the tract, which he says "I have only pointed out to them;" from whatever cause very few have followed him, although many have promised. If it were possible for Mr. MOORE to have seen the progress, that Authors and Pigeon Fanciers, have made after One Hundred and Twenty-three Years, he would not have had occasion to hope, the Learned World knew how to make allowances for a first attempt in any kind of knowledge.

13* (EATON.)—Moreover, he is fully convinced "that proper Icons are of very great service to illustrate a work of this nature," &c. It is my intention to illustrate this Work with the best engraved coloured portraits of Fancy Pigeons, as encouraged by the acknowledged best Fanciers, that ever lived. It will be seen they have never been surpassed. Mr. MOORE observes, "the Work being New, and not knowing whether it would be attended with profit or loss,"—that appears to me to be the true reading of it—besides swelling the price too high for many, he abandoned having Portraits rather than bad ones, which shewed his good sense. I only wish it were possible he could witness the Icons, as he called them, that will accompany this Work; it is possible, provided we could find, and place the engravings that will accompany this work over, his grave, like the "Tally Ho" over Tom Moody's grave, that he is fairly ran down.

14. (EATON.)—It is certain Mr. MOORE must have been a rare Fancier, or he never could have defined the different species, their properties, and markings, so true as he has done, unless he had been a great Observer and Reflector.

COLUMBARIUM:

OR, THE PIGEON HOUSE.

THE INTRODUCTION.

17.—Zoology, or the History of Animals, has been a task in all ages deemed worthy the consideration of the best and ablest Philosophers, and many branches of this useful history have been handed down to us from them in an elegant and instructive manner, showing us the beauty and wisdom of providence and our great Creator, in the formation of such an almost infinite variety of creatures, and raising our thoughts to the sbulimest notions of that tremendous Being, whose almighty fiat gave them birth; at the same time teaching us to adore his bounty and goodness in making mankind their superior, and submitting them all to his use. The contemplation of God in his creatures sets us such a lesson of humility, as ought to make the proud man blush, and humbly prostrate himself before the throne of that omnipotent invisible Deity, whose hand supports him in common with the brute creation.

18.—I could wish some abler pen had undertook the work now before me, but having examined most of the writers on these subjects, and find-

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17. (Eaton.)—Emperors, Kings, Queens, Princes, Nobles, with the best and ablest Philosophers in all ages, have considered Pigeons worthy their consideration and taking great delight in them; ought it not to make the proud stiff necked ignorant man to stoop, who attempts to ridicule and burlesque the Pigeon, he is in some measure to be pitied, because he knows no better. I sincerely hope, from Mr. Moore's beautiful remarks, it will urge us Fanciers on, to endeavour to improve the beautiful properties of the Pigeon, and contemplate their beauties and persevere in endeavouring to improve their properties and raise them to a higher standard. We ought to feel grateful to Mr. Moore in calling our attention, or reminding us while passing through the wilderness. We are creatures, not the Creator, although all is vanity under the Sun, we should embrace as large a share of happiness (free from vice) while travelling through the wilderness, and should not be disheartened or hip ourselves by contemplating whether our Pigeons, after death, shall fall into the hands of a wise man or a fool.

18. (Eaton.)—Mr. Moore, over and over again, appears to deeply lament and deplore the task of writing, or giving information to the Pigeon Fanciers, had not fallen to the lot of some abler pen than himself. In commenting on his writings to the same effect prior, I made use of this word—Query. I repeat now again, Query; and ask, If ever there was a Fancier who could have done more than Mr. Moore did, considering it was the first attempt at this new Science, and not having any tract or line pointed out to him to follow? He had examined most of the writers on these subjects, and finding in them either no account at all, or else a very imperfect and superficial one, which for a due opportunity to examine the Bird they were describing, they have generally taken up at random and upon credit. Mr. Moore says, "I thought it, in some measure, incumbent on me to attempt a Natural History of this kind, partly as having in my house most of the sorts to be described, and partly to provoke other Gentlemen who have more skill and ability to rescue this part of the History of Animals from that obscurity it has so long laboured under."

ing in them either no account at all, or else a very imperfect and superficial one, which for want of a due opportunity to examine the bird they were describing, they have generally taken up at random and upon credit; I thought it in some measure incumbent upon me to attempt a natural history of this kind, partly as having in my own house most of the sorts to be described, and partly to provoke other gentlemen who have more skill and ability, to rescue this part of the history of animals from that obscurity it has so long laboured under.

19.—In order therefore to render this treatise, (which has been so long due from one part of my countrymen, I mean the naturalists, and so long desired by another) as compleat as possible, I shall divide this book into two parts; in the first I shall treat of the method of keeping, breeding, and preserving of Pigeons, and in the second I shall give an account of the different sorts, endeavouring to clear up all obscurities, and render the knowledge and distinction of the several species facile to all those, who

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When the idea first took possession of Mr. MOORE'S mind, to attempt a Natural History of Pigeons, it appears to me, the wand of the enchanter was over and guided him. It was a luckey thought for the Gentlemen of the Fancy, a fortunate thing no one else had attempted it prior, otherwise it might not have been half so well executed, and have been the means of preventing Mr. MOORE writing upon the subject, which he executed with such masterly skill, the loss of which would have been a loss indeed. Do not for a moment suppose I am so vain, puffed-up, or conceited, as having more skill and ability than other Fanciers, the great fact is, the only thing that urges me on to write is "I have the will, others the ability, not the will," and my great desire is to lay before the young Fancier such a mass of information as never appeared before on Pigeons, besides handing down to posterity Mr. MOORE'S original Work, word for word, from which all other Works are taken, except some Toys and Foreign Pigeons, for which we are greatly indebted to Mr. B. P. BRENT, which you will read by and bye.

19. (EATON.)—Mr. MOORE observes in this Paragraph, "in order therefore to render this Treatise, which has been so long due from one part of my countrymen, I mean the Naturalists, and so long desired by another," (alluding to the Pigeon Fancier, although he does not exactly say so in his Work, which from beginning to end, is entirely written and confined to the Pigeon Fancier.) Mr. M. cannot help thinking that the Naturalists had greatly slighted the Gentlemen of the Pigeon Fancy. Could a Naturalist have written upon a subject unless he was a Pigeon Fancier? It is possible a Naturalist might compile and write upon a thousand different animals and birds for the general reading of the millions, as lions, tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, camels, dromedaries, camelopards, &c.; or birds, the eagle, ostrich, or the titlark, and Cochin China fowls, &c. &c. I am not aware that Naturalists have raised a standard, or how many properties constitutes the standard, as laid down to test the lion or tiger by, &c.; this may arise simply from the want of pluck on the part of the Naturalists not going into their dens, examining their properties or points, for fear of catching cold. Gentlemen who delight in the song of birds, and who understand their song, as laid down by Bird Fanciers, have as much right bitterly to complain as Mr. MOORE, that the Naturalists had entirely overlooked them, and had not given any account of the execution song birds execute; imagine to yourself, a match made by two Bird Fanciers, each, supposing they had the best titlark between wood and wire, to sing a match for half an hour, as a matter of course the bird performing the most execution would win; would it be right and fitting to appoint a Naturalist to keep score unless he was a good Bird Fancier, understood their song, such as weeting, chouing, fearing, whisking, laughing, rattling, and their objectionable song, such as snuffling, shiting, &c.? I tell you plainly it is the office of the Bird Fancier; how frequently do you hear persons say sweet, sweet, pretty dick; supposing the bird to

either do or may hereafter delight in the contemplation of this innocent part of the creation; that by comparing any bird with the characteristics here given, they may be able to determine not only the species itself, but to form a tolerable judgment whether it be of the better sort or not: and to this end I have not only examined those birds of each sort which I keep myself, but have had recourse to, and consulted most of the oldest and most experienced persons that kept pigeons and delighted in this fancy.

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say sweet, instead of weet? They do not understand them, whereas, a Bird Fancier would remain quiet and listen to their song and execution.

(EATON.)—Whenever I attend Ornamental, Domestic, Poultry, and Fancy Pigeon Shows, after viewing the Pigeons, my attention is called to Fowls of whatever variety. Not keeping Fowls, I know little or nothing about them, as they ought to be known; my attention would be directed to those Fowls that had taken 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize of the different varieties. I have obtained the best Works, not that I know anything more about them. As every one has a beginning, I cannot in my conscience help thinking that of obtaining the best Work, as laid down by the Gentlemen of the Poultry Fancy to guide me is the first step in the right path, to obtain knowledge of the standards of the various Fowls that obtained the greatest number of points, or properties, as laid down; say five for argument, or seven or nine, it being necessary to have an odd number, otherwise the two best birds might equally divide the properties, then the prize could not be awarded. I said five for argument; supposing one bird to obtain shape and feather, two beautiful properties; but the bird shewn against it, obtained the other three properties, whatever they may be, the prize must be awarded by the judges to the bird that obtained the three properties, notwithstanding the other bird possessed shape and feather, which, as I observed before, are truly beautiful properties; if, on the contrary, the prizes are awarded to the general appearance of the bird, it is a clear proof there is not any standard laid down, (it is high time there was) which leaves the Judges and Fanciers in the dark, not knowing what they are aiming at. Surely, it is not the work of a Naturalist to lay down a standard, but the work of Fowl Fanciers.

(EATON).—As we are on the Fancy and Shows, we are generally called together by the bill of fare, viz., "A Grand Show of Ornamental, Domestic, Useful, and Fancy Poultry and Pigeons, &c. &c." Poultry has its fashions like other things. a few years ago Cochins were the fashion, now the Spanish; the Game Fowl will never be forgot, the Dorkings are always in tune with belly Fanciers, of which there are an amazing quantity, who cannot see any beauty in a Pigeon, except it is roast or in a pie, these belly Fancies complain two Pigeons take off the sharp edge of their appetite; they are great Fanciers of the large Runts that will weigh two and a quarter pound each. Of all the Fowls, as regards fancy Fowls, none ought to rank so high, nor have so high a prize awarded them, as the truly beautiful pretty little Lilleputian consequential aristocratic and game Bantams. It is the only single Fowl that there is a society of the first men in the country. It is held at the Gray's Inn Coffee House Tavern, London, to improve their beautiful properties and raise them to a higher standard of perfection. This society has existed for many years, and was presided over by the eminent and spirited Fancier the late Sir John Sebrigh.

(EATON.)—I am of opinion I shall dwell rather long on the subject I am about to take in hand. You may omit reading it for the present; read it at your leisure, and proceed to the Pigeons at once, provided you think fit.

(EATON.)—To the disgust of Gentlemen Pigeon Fanciers, unfortunately there are some few men to be found who take upon themselves the onerous duties of awarding prizes to Pigeons, which they know they are incompetent to do, not knowing the properties of the different varieties of Pigeons—in fact, to speak plain, comparatively know no more about Pigeons than Pigeons know about them. My knowledge of Gentlemen Pigeon Fanciers, with their knowledge of Fowls, I feel convinced they are

equally as competent to award the prizes to Fowls as the Fowl Fanciers are to Pigeons, and would do it equally as honest. Then what folly to mar the pleasures of a Poultry and Pigeon Show, by a niggardly and false economy by calling upon men to do that which they are incompetent to do, when first-rate London Fanciers, who do not want to make a profit out of Pigeon Shows, on the contrary, simply to award the bird or birds that are entitled to the prize or prizes, irrespective whether they belonged to the peer or the peasant. When you consider the enthusiastic London Fanciers, as I said before, who are not desirous of making a profit out of Pigeons, only that the best birds may win, should the society or show be a small one and economy a consideration, depend upon it one good judge is better than three muffs, besides the pleasantness and harmony that will attend the show, for if dissatisfaction should attend the awarding of the prizes, it may cause such a schism that another show will not be attempted. Therefore, while good London Fanciers are to be obtained at a sovereign or guinea and a return ticket, why run the risk of destroying theshow for ever ?

The Preston, in Lancashire, Show, very judiciously required the exhibitors to name gentlemen who they thought competent for judges. The committee are not bound to choose who you or I may mention. I named two gentlemen for Pigeons (one was chosen) whose judgment and honesty in awarding prizes I consider not second to any Fanciers who are A 1. Fowls I do not pretend to know anything about, therefore did not name any gentleman. There was another beautiful condition in this show, provided the 1st prize or prizes were withheld—the judges had to give an account of the why or the wherefore, and carried to the next prize or prizes. This was a noble and generous act on the part of the committee, freeing it from all meanness, besides calling upon the judges to give their why and wherefore in withholding prizes. I am sensible there are some Pigeon Fanciers so up to their work, as touching the standard laid down for the various varieties of Pigeons, if asked by the committee why a bird won or lost, that would give satisfaction; at the same time I am equally sensible that other judges would not, but insist upon it that they had awarded the best bird or birds without giving the why or the wherefore, which is not satisfactory, a judge simply pointing out the properties as laid down by the standard, gives satisfaction to all, and especially to the exhibitors, many of whom know the properties of a Pigeon as well as the judge or judges. I don't believe there's a thorough good Fancier that cares about being beat by better birds, although he thought his own the best under the sun, until he saw better. This was simply his mistake, fortunately not the judge or judges. It is very different when a Fancier is beat with worse birds. What will allay him ? It is not so much the value of the medal; 'tis the honour and glory of carrying it off. I receive many letters from Fanciers of different counties, on various subjects connected with Pigeons. A few days ago I received a letter from a very spirited Fancier ; part of the letter is as follows :—I am rather astonished to find that Mr. —— has beaten me with ——. He never has before. I beat at the —— Show, also at the —— Show ; all the same birds, &c. &c. I do not say by the same judges, for I know on one occasion there was a different judge, placed in the room of one of the others. You may reason that the birds might have been out of condition. I do not believe so out of condition that their properties could not be discovered. It is a want of judgment when birds are awarded upon feather or mere appearance alone, for, after all, feather is only one property out of five. A pair of very superior birds may be put in a pen at a Show, and not match exactly as regards feather, although capable of taking the other three, or even four properties out of the properties as laid down by the standard to test the birds. Where too much of this nonsense is carried out by incompetent judges, for simply to take a particularly neat pair of birds, not objectionable in any of their properties, but far from being good in any of their properties, save only feather, is to do away with the standard, and reduce it to one property only, feather, or—the toss of my hat! Such judges require strong memories to recollect how they formerly awarded the same birds, otherwise there never will be an end to this "see-saw work." But, acting strictly up to the five properties, as laid down by the standard, will always prove which are the best birds, and will, if once the best birds, always remain so, unless fresh birds are brought against them that are better. You may reason the birds will grow old (so will you and me). Is that any reason they are to be despised? Did you never see an old bird extra good in all its properties save feather ? The cause of my writing so much on the subject, is to guard judges from awarding prizes to Pigeons by any rule save only the right one, which is by the five properties as laid down by the standard. There are

Fanciers who contend that it cannot be a white Pouter if it has black in the beak, and would disqualify it from showing, although there are not any properties in the head of the Pouter according to the standard laid down. Yet the same Fanciers would allow a black Carrier to be shown with a white beak. Now, where is the consistency, although, according to Mr. MOORE'S standard, a Carrier is reckoned to have twelve properties, all in the head, viz., three in the beak, three in the wattle, three in the head, and three in the eye? The three properties in the beak are to be long, straight, and thick. MOORE and MAYOR says nothing of the colour of a Carrier's beak, but GIRTIN (page 63) says beak a black colour. As there is not any property in the head of a Pouter, and as there is mention as touching the colour of the beak of a Carrier, I think it would be only fair to carry the stain or black beak of the Pouter with the feather, letting the Pouter lose one property, "feather," which is gread odds, one out of five, and proceed upon the other four properties. It was so at the Crystal Palace Winter Show, January, 1858, and showed the judgment of the judges. I would not disqualify a white Pouter, being shown as a white Pouter with a black beak, any more than I would a black Carrier with a white beak. I have seen splendid birds with these beaks. 'Tis possible a cunning Fancier might make a match with a Gentleman Fancier (taking him off his guard) that he would show a black mottle Tumbler against him for the five properties. This cunning Fancier might put in a bird that cost 1s., calculating he might find a grizzle feather in the bird of his opponent, although the owner would not take many pounds for it, and declare that his opponent had lost the match by stating his bird was a grizzle and not a black mottle. Unfortunately there are few such men in the Fancy, and men that know what birds are, they are cunning men, not Gentlemen Fanciers. If a wager was made to show a Pouter, for all properties, and a white Pouter put in with a black beak, taking three properties out of five, would win. But if a wager was made to show the best white Pouter, the party losing might demur, by stating the other was not a white Pouter, having a stain beak, although, generally speaking, the colour of the beak runs with the colour of the feather of the bird. If it is not a white Pouter, then, what is it? There are excellent Carrier Fanciers who prefer a streaky beak on a black Carrier, and some will go so far as to prefer a few white feathers underneath, near the anus or vent, believing the birds coming from a better strain. Almond Fanciers prefer a Kite, with a white beak, rather than the colour of the bird, as more likely coming from two Almonds. Again, generally speaking, an Almond has a white beak, but where an Almond has a deal of black in its break, it often happens that it has a stained, dark, or even a black beak. Some Fanciers, to answer their purpose, would even, if they dare attempt it, say it was not an Almond with a black beak. Then, what is it? some would say a splash. If it is an Almond, it is an Almond, although it may have a splash or stain beak. There is no accounting for the crotchets some Fanciers have got into their heads. For instance, a pair of Tumblers; you know the cock has five properties, the hen also five properties, making ten, whether good or bad, that is to be decided by the judges, provided they are up to their work, as laid down by the standard. You know a pair of Carriers have also between them ten properties; also a pair of Pouters. Therefore, if either a pair of Tumblers, Carriers, or Pouters can take six properties out of the ten, ought by all means out of common honesty to have the prize awarded to them. It is evident the birds shown against them had good properties, and kept the pair in check, otherwise the pair that took the prize would have taken more properties. It is possible, if a pair of Tumblers lost two properties, they were a broken or bad eye, and a wry beak. Simply to disqualify birds from contending for prizes on this account, viz., from a broken or bad eye, or from a wry beak, only proves that the judges are not, and never were, up to the mark. For once a thorough good Fancier, always a good Fancier, though infirmities may grow upon them that they cannot get about their avaries or lofts as they did fifty years ago, yet they do not forget what the properties of birds ought to be. You might equally as well with justice disqualify a pair of Carriers with hooked and spindle beaks, or with pinched eyes, as a Tumbler with a wry beak, or a bad eye from whatever cause; or disqualify a pair of the finest English Pouters ever witnessed simply because they do not exactly match in colour of Feather and markings, viz.—chap, bib, pinion, chain, clear thighed, after all only one property out of five; provided I could find language to rivet it on your mind. By all means, look for the bad properties of the birds, the good ones will shew at sight, with truth and honesty give the properties to the birds that possess them; above all things do not disqualify

altogether birds from showing, simply because it has one bad property, viz.—it may be a broken eye, or a crooked beak, or an odd Feather, for the bird might take three properties out of the other four, therefore, the winner, by taking three properties out of the five, a proof it was the better bird. If too much of this nonsense is allowed of disqualifying birds there is no knowing where it will end, and what advantages may be taken of the young and inexperienced Fancier, who are not able to contend with more experienced Fanciers; there is a line to be drawn, for example, if two Fanciers agree to show two black-pied Pouters, the one showing a blue-pied Pouter, thinking he might be allowed to lose on Feather, disqualify the bird at once, for it is not a black-pied Pouter, and give the prize to the other bird provided it is a black-pied Pouter. On the contrary, if two black-pied are shewn, and there should be a kitish Feather about it, do not disqualify this bird, provided the other is better in Feather, by all means let it take this property (Feather), and proceed on the other four properties. It is equally applicable to black, red, yellow mottles, and all other Pigeons, therefore let the judges act with integrity, uprightness, and truth, as the breath of their soul; if they know they are incompetent to award the prizes of Pigeons, let them give it up and give place to more competent men, otherwise they will be branded with infamy; although not intentional, only simply from a want of knowledge of the five properties. A few evenings ago at a Pigeon show, a gentleman, who is acknowledged by the Fancy to be a good Fancier, although having very strange crotchets in head, he would not admit as a pair of Tumblers, if one Tumbler had a beautiful pair of pearl eyes and the other a broken, gravel, or bull eye, as it is termed by Fanciers, but he would admit them as a pair of Tumblers provided the pair were both gravel eyed. Now I simply appeal to Fanciers, is it not better to have one bad property than four in the eyes of a pair of Tumblers, for should the cock have extraordinary good eyes, although his hen a broken or bad eye, he may make a tie with the other pair shown against them, that is one, and one as regards the properties of the eyes; 'tis startling, to think of putting in a pair (a queer pair) of tumblers with gravel eyes, which would most assuredly lose by their eyes two properties out of 10, and must they not be a rare pair of tumblers, to take six properties out of the other eight to win. I did not approve of this gentleman's logic, while listening a thought flashed across my mind, if two gentlemen were walking together, one gentleman with a wooden leg, the other without a wooden leg, he would not acknowledge them a pair of gentlemen; but if any one would break the leg of the other gentleman, and put him on a wooden leg, then he would admit them as a pair of gentlemen, I simply appeal to your experience whether it is not better to have one bad property than two. There is a little joking going at the present time, a gentleman having made a wager, that a white Pouter ought to have an orange eye; there is not any property laid down in the head of the Pouter—the head, beak, eye, or wattle. The eye of the Pouter is generally a gravel eye; for a white Pouter the Fanciers are more pleased with a black or bull eye, the term used by Fanciers.

(Eaton.)—With regard to Pigeons, Fanciers consider worthy of a standard; namely, the Tumbler, Carrier, and English Pouter: for instance, if the Tumbler possessed shape and feather, two grand properties; if another Tumbler is shewn against it, possessing the properties of head, beak, and eye, the bird taking three properties out of the five, according to the standard laid down by the Gentlemen of the Fancy, must of necessity be awarded the prize. Again, if a Carrier possessed length and thinness of neck, length of body, and great width of chest, which is, after all, only one property (shape), also the head; if another Carrier is shewn against it, possessing the properties of beak, wattle, and eye, the bird taking three properties out of the five, according to the standard laid down, must be awarded the prize. Again, if an English Pouter possessed the properties—shape, and beauty in feather; if another English Pouter is shewn against it, possessing the properties of length of body, length of legs, crop, the bird taking three properties out of the five, according to the standard laid down by Fanciers, must be awarded the prize, notwithstanding the general appearance of the bird possessing shape and feather, which, as I said before, is truly beautiful.

(Eaton.)—Having a standard laid down to test the birds, creates harmony, and removes unpleasantness. If two Gentlemen of the Fancy agree to shew two Almond Tumblers for a bottle of wine, bowl of punch, or a rump and dozen; if they are two true, honest, good Fanciers, and their hearts in the right place, they do not require the judges to tell them, which has lost or won, knowing that one bird has taken three, four, or the five properties, although the bird that lost, the owner would not take ten

pounds for; moreover, it silences the inexperienced Fancier, who shows for the five properties—his bird possessing shape and feather. The inexperienced Fancier, from the general appearance of his bird, supposes he has won, but the judges inform him he has lost, upon head, beak, and eye, he is satisfied; taking the general appearance of a bird, and not having a standard, is a very childish affair, and produces ill will. It is useless for judges to inform gentlemen they have lost, and that is all they will say; it is better to have a standard, and point out the properties on which they lost, which would give satisfaction; besides, there are Fanciers (after the decision of the judges) are equal as good judges, if not superior in judgment, for it often happens that the judges do not keep birds; at all events, they have no right to have any birds contending for the prizes. If there is not any standard, and you take the general appearance of the bird, you might as well have young ladies from boarding-schools, for judges, who would look out birds and call them very pretty.

(Eaton.)—The first time I had the honor of attending the Columbarian Society, held at the Gray's Inn Coffee-house, London, when the Almond Tumbler that took first prize was shewn me, I expressed my surprise, (being a young head and beak fancier); French Stevens, Esq., an extraordinary Fancier, made it clear to me, when he stated it was the only bird in the pen that came up to the standard—Feather, which I will give you, viz. three colours—black, white, and yellow, in the nine first feathers of each wing, and twelve in the tail; see J. M. Eaton's Almond Tumbler, Paragraphs 413 to 416 on Feather. The Columbarian Society takes notice only of the Almond Tumbler, and very judiciously have their first prize (Feather), to prevent Fanciers running from Feather. If, on the contrary, there had been three Almonds, all standard birds, then the Umpires would have awarded the prize to the bird that obtained three properties out of the five, viz. Feather, Shape, Head, Beak, Eye. It sometimes happens that the first prize is not awarded, owing to a standard bird (Feather) not being exhibited.

(Eaton.)—This late celebrated Society had another standard for Almond Tumblers, for the bird that takes most properties out of the five, namely, Head, Beak, Eye, Shape, and Feather, this bird is, generally, the Lion of their Anniversary. It so happened, the bird which was a standard feather and took the first prize, came into the possession of a friend of mine. I could have had the bird but would not, being a short-faced head and beak Fancier, and the bird possessing only one property out of five, which was feather. How different was the case with regard to the bird that was the Lion of the Day, which was shewn for the five properties! I could have wished to have bought that bird, but I knew it would have offered an insult to the Gentlemen forming that Society, although they have a rule privately among themselves, any member of the Society has the privilege of putting up any bird in the pen to auction, the owner of the bird has one bid and no more; if the owner of the bird is satisfied with the highest bid, the bird is sold; on the contrary, if the owner puts a higher price on the bird, which often gives a fresh fillip, competion begins again, and whoever is the highest bidder obtains the bird: the bird I am writing of was sold for many guineas, I know the gentleman who purchased it. It was so as regards a pen of Bantams, H———, Esq. put on them £50, Sir John Sebright offered £50 1s. and claimed them.

(Eaton.)—Why I should have written so much about the standard, I am at a loss to know, unless it is to throw out a gentle hint to judges, who have a standard to test the birds by—to act strictly up to the standard as laid down, not forgetting themselves, and taking the general appearance of the bird, or to those Fanciers who appoint judge to award prizes where no standard is laid down; taking the general appearance of the bird, which is sure to give dissatisfaction. In a former part I mentioned very learned men, Naturalists, could write and edify the general reading of millions; I now inform you, they could not write to satisfy a few Gentlemen Pigeon Fanciers, unless they were Pigeon Fanciers themselves; Naturalists did write upon Pigeons. Did they please Mr. Moore? Certainly not. If we knew his private thoughts, for aught we know, in his estimation instead of being Naturalists, he may have set them down as naturals, for writing on a subject they did not understand. Looking over some Works published since Mr. Moore's day, were it possible to have shewn Mr. Moore some of coloured engravings of Pigeons, to have asked him what birds they were, he, no doubt, would have answered he thought they belonged to the eagle, or vulture specie, being so unlike Pigeons. He expresses his surprise and amazement at the indolence of all our Ornithologists; he had examined most of the writers on the subject, and finding in them no account at all, or else a very imperfect and superficial one, (for want of a due

20.—But not to detain you any longer with the introduction, I shall in the first place give an account in what manner to build your loft.

THE METHOD OF BUILDING A LOFT.

21.—A pigeon loft ought to be built to the south or south-west, the sun lying warmest on them from those quarters; but if you have not that convenience, you may make a hole in the roof of your house, and there lay your platform, smaller or larger as you think proper. A carpenter that is used to such work will put you in a method, always remembering to erect proper works to keep off those tormentors of the gentlemen of the Fancy—the cats, for in one night's time they will make a very great havock, and are generally observed to destroy those pigeons which you most value; so that 'tis better to be at some charge first, to prevent the incursions of such dangerous and fatal invaders, who seldom or never give any quarters.*

22.—Let your loft be large enough to contain the number of pigeons you intend to keep, always allowing at least two holes or breeding places

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opportunity to examine the bird they were describing), they have generally taken up at random, and upon credit. He says, "I thought it in some measure incumbent upon me to attempt a Natural History of this kind, and to this end I have not only examined those birds of each sort which I keep myself, but have had recourse to, and consulted most of the oldest and experienced persons that kept Pigeons, and delighted in this Fancy." He certainly adopted the most wise course he could pursue, to carry out his object. The idea of disqualifying a pen of birds "altogether," simply because they do not exactly match in Feather, although they can take six, seven, or eight properties out of the ten, proves such a void of judgment on the part of judge or judges, that if the Fancier or Fanciers were near a farm-house, where hay or straw bands could be obtained, I think the ill-used and disgusted Fanciers would almost be justified in dragging the judge through a horse-pond, which he knew he richly deserved for doing that which he was incompetent to do, besides teaching him a lesson for the future. I shall conclude these remarks, by a truly beautiful observation, taken out of a letter to me by WILLIAM TONGE, Esq.

(TONGE.)—With regard to the general appearance of a bird, it is really wonderful to see how some (who call themselves Fanciers) are carried quite away, overlooking every consideration, save that of Feather, which it must be admitted is truly a fine FINISH. But as everything must have a begining it must be infinitely better to attach the greatest importance to that which constitutes the FOUNDATION, leaving all artistic embellishments to a future season. Comparisons are sometimes odious and perhaps this may be considered an instance, many a good bird is passed over without comment simply because he is clothed in a bad skin, although, did he but possess his brothers coat and "vice-versa," how great would be the change.

21. (EATON.)—At various times, as my judgment and observations have improved, I have brought out three different diagrams of building or fitting up a Pigeonary in an Aviary, Room, Place, &c. &c.

* 21. (MAYOR, p. 2.)—Notwithstanding the cats are natural enemies to Pigeons, it is a common thing to see one in most Pigeon lofts, which are put in there when young, and by proper methods being used with them, such as sometimes beating them with a dead Pigeon, and holding an egg, made hot, to their nose, which intimidates them from touching the eggs, &c., they naturally become afraid of them, and will never hurt either the eggs or Pigeons, provided they are constantly supplied with food; they are extremely necessary in a loft, by keeping it clear of rats and mice, which are full as destructive to the Pigeons as the cats, by sucking their eggs, killing the young ones, and even the old ones, &c.

for every pair; for the more room they have, the more quiet they will sit, and breed the better; I once knew a gentleman, who could not raise three young ones out of nine pair of breeding pigeons all the spring, and for above three months after, only by keeping them straitened in too narrow a compass: Whereas, about the latter end of August, or beginning of September, he moved them into a larger loft, and the same pigeons bred well, even then, and through the most part of the winter. The reason of this inconvenience is this, salacious cocks will often be playing to, and disturbing the others as they sit, and others who want room to sit will fight for nests, and by this means destroy both eggs and young ones.

23.—To make your breeding places, you may erect shelves of about fourteen inches broad, allowing eighteen inches betwixt shelf and shelf; for otherwise your tall powters, by being forced to crouch for want of height, will get a habit of playing low, and spoil their carriage. In these shelves erect partitions at about the distance of three feet, fixing a blind by a board nailed against the front, on each side of every partition; by this means you will have two nests in the length of every three feet, and your pigeons will sit dark and private. You may if you please, fix a partition between each nest, to prevent the young ones from running to the hen, when sitting at the other end, and cooling her eggs; for in breeding time, when the young ones are about three weeks old, the hen, if a good breeder, will lay again, and leave the cock to take care of, and bring up the young ones.

25.—In every nest you must put a straw basket, or earthen pan, both which are made and adapted to this very purpose; for besides that by this means the eggs are prevented from rolling out of the nest, you need never handle your young pigeons, if you have a mind to look on them, which often puts them into a scouring. Some like the basket best, as judging it warmest, and not so liable to crack the egg when first laid; others are for the pan, as not so apt to harbour vermin, and say that the foregoing inconveniences are easily remedied by giving them a sufficient quantity of clean straw, or frail; the frail is most valued because it lies hollow, and will last a great while, for when your young ones have left their nest, 'tis but taking hold of the ends of the frail, and the dung will shake off it, and the frail be as fit for use as before.

26.—As for your trap or aviary, it is always built on a platform or floor of deals, on the outside of your house, that your pigeons may have free passage into it; it is formed of laths nailed so close together, that the smallest pigeon can't make its escape through it. Some build these very small, with three doors, one on each side, which all draw up together by pulling a single string, intending chiefly to catch stray pigeons, whom they decoy into it, by strewing hemp-seed, or rape and canary, which all pigeons are very fond of. Others build them very wide and lofty, so that four or five persons may conveniently stand in them together, with a shelf

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23.—See J. M. Eaton's Almond Tumbler, paragraphs 531, 532, and 533.

25.—Ibid, paragraphs 537 to 541.

or two on every side, (*) designing them to give room and air to pigeons of the homing sort, which they are obliged to keep confined; this practice is of very great use, by keeping such prisoners in a good state of health.

27.—In order to complete your loft, you must furnish it with proper meat boxes, and bottles and stands for water.

28.—Your meat-box ought to be formed in the shape of a hopper, as a reservoir for their food, it must be covered over on the top, to prevent them from dunging among the grain; from hence the meat descends into a square shallow box, fenced in with rails or holes on each side, to keep them from flirting the grain over on the floor amongst their own dung.

29.—Your water-bottle should be a large glass bottle, with a long neck, holding three or four gallons, and its belly made in the form of an egg to keep them from dunging on it. This bottle should be set upon a stand or three-footed stool, made hollow at top to receive the belly, and let the mouth into a small pan, your water will by this means gradually descend out of the mouth of the bottle, as your pigeons drink it, and be sweet and clean, and always stop when the surface of the water meets with the mouth of the bottle.

30.—The reason of which is this, the belly of the bottle being entirely close at top, keeps off all the external pressure of the atmosphere, which

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* 26. (J. M. Eaton.)—With a small private cupboard, to take a wee drop with these four or five brother Fanciers for "Auld Lang Syne," should the mornings be cold and frosty; or, *vice versa*, to quench the thirst, should it be hot or oppressive when their coppers are hot.

27 to 30.—See J. M. Eaton's Almond Tumbler, paragraphs 550 to 557.

(Brent.)—The best mode of furnishing a loft for Pigeons between the spars of an outhouse roof. The first thing to be done is to lay a floor, if that is not already there, and to secure every crevice and corner in every direction against the inroads of any vermin, from a mouse to a cat; this done, a door is made for the convenience of inspecting the birds and cleaning them out. An opening must be made to admit of the egress and ingress of the Pigeons, and also to admit light; this opening should be on the south or south-west side, if convenient, about a foot from the floor. The opening should be provided with an alighting board or platform for the pigeons to pitch on, and protected by a lathwork trap, or some sort of lattice door, which can be closed at pleasure if it is required to capture any of the birds or to confine new ones, permitting them to see the exterior a few days before they have their liberty. The exterior being thus completed, the interior can easily be furnished with shelves about eight or nine inches broad, and secured to the rafters at about eighteen inches above each other, the interstices between the rafters, roof, and back of the shelves should be fitted up with pieces of board, and a ledge about three or four inches high in front will convert these shelves into troughs, eight or nine inches broad, and three or four deep, which are to be divided into nests by nailing an upright partition against each rafter; every second partition should project about five or six inches beyong the front ledge to prevent one pair from taking the whole row, which they will otherwise do. At the intermediate partitions it will be as well to place a short perch or roost about an inch and a half square, and about eight or nine inches long, which will facilitate the passage of the rightful owners from one to the other of their own pair of nests, and serve as a resting-place for the old birds, and being placed on a level with the upper ledge of the front ledge, it will be a convenient position to feed their young from. The nests should be made of stout well-seasoned wood, planed smooth, and all crevices stopped so as not to harbour any insects. This arrangement is intended for the inside of a slanting roof, and I have found it answer exceedingly well.

pressing hard upon the surface of the water in the pan, which is contiguous to that in the bottle, is too potent for the small quantity of air, which is conveyed into the belly of the bottle with the water, and which consequently, as being the lighter matter, rises to the top of the bottle, as it stands in its proper situation, but the water being sucked away by your pigeons, that it no longer touches the mouth of the bottle, the confined air exerts its power, and causes the water to descend till they become contiguous as before.

(BRENT.)—Country gentlemen, when they keep Pigeons usually build a dovecot as I have described in my former paper when writing about the dovehouse Pigeons, and these are usually tenanted by common birds.

(BRENT.)—In towns where the flying Pigeons are kept, the loft under the roof of the house, or some out-building, is their frequent abode; this should be floored, and the skirting well secured against the entrance of rats and other vermin. From the rafters shelves may be suspended and divided into nests, or as some prefer these on the ground, they may be made in pairs all round the floor; light should be let in through a glass window at the end, or a skylight in the roof, and an opening should be made in the roof with a trap-door of some sort, that a person may occasionally put his head and shoulders out to look about. A platform of boards must be laid for the Pigeons to alight on, at the entrance, and on this should be placed their airery or trap, which is a framework of laths, with three doors, letting down and pulling up with a cord; on the top of the trap several square holes of about four inches wide are left, which are called "tipping holes;" and at the sides of the trap at each corner are wires, suspended on a pivot, which fall against a small ledge that prevents their swinging outwards, these are called "bolting-wires." The tipping-holes and bolting-wires are always useful to allow any pigeon to enter from without when the trap is closed, though no pigeon can get out of them when rightly made at least it very rarely happens; and such traps are in constant use, by means of which the owner has always command over the Pigeons, and can shut them up, let them out, or catch any he pleases on the shortest notice. The loft should be provided with a "hopper" or meat-box so constructed that it supplies a trough at the bottom as long as there is any food in the box; the trough must be guarded by wires, or the Pigeons are apt to knock the corn over and waste it. The water should be placed in a large earthen fountain or water-bottle: the best forms are those that are made like a large round bottle, inverted in an earthen stand, with holes all round for the Pigeons to drink from: metal fountains are very objectionable; iron may perhaps be an exception.

(BRENT.)—The "salt cat" is good for all Pigeons, and should be placed in a jar with holes all round for the Pigeons to peck through, and covered with a lid. It is thought by some that Pigeons injure a roof, but the damage they do is so very trifling, if any, that it is scarcely worth notice; they cannot possibly loosen any tiles by pecking, though by running over an old roof they may occasionally shake down a tile, or slate, that was previously loose, but which would of necessity have fallen the next high wind had the Pigeons not been there; the mortar they eat is only that which time and the weather has crumbled and made soft, and which would be washed down by every shower. A bath is good for Pigeons, and they take great delight in washing, but it is not necessary for them always to have it, and it should be so placed that their splashing may do no harm. Green food, too, is beneficial for them; they will eat almost any sort of smooth-leaved greens or lettuce. The best food for Pigeons are small beans or old tares, but where they have plenty of exercise almost any sort of grain will do, provided it is occasionally changed. It is almost impossible to describe the inside arrangements of a loft, so various are tastes, and so much does it depend on circumstances; but the Pigeons must not be too crowded, and each pair must have two nests. Some prefer earthen pans for them to breed in, others let them nest on the boards or in boxes, but in either case the nest should be somewhat secluded, and the nest, as well as the whole loft, often cleaned out. Birch twigs and heath or heather I consider the best materials for the nest, though straw will do. I like the Pigeons to build their own

THE METHOD OF MATCHING OR PAIRING YOUR PIGEONS.

31.—Your loft being thus finished and equipped, my next instructions shall be, how to match or pair your pigeons together; and here we must observe, that though they are very constant when mated to each other, seldom or never suing a divorce, except when either of them grow sick or very old, yet it is sometimes very difficult to make them couple to your liking.

32.—The best way therefore to effect what you desire on this head, is to erect two coops, usually called by the Fanciers matching places, close together, let the partition between be made of lath, that they may see each other, and you may easily contrive it so that they may both eat and drink out of the same vessels; feed them often with hemp-seed, which will make them salacious, and when you observe the hen to sweep her tail and shew to the cock, as he plays in the other pen, you may then put her in to him, and they will soon be matched.

33.—But if for want of this convenience, you are obliged at first to put them both into one coop, always put the cock in first, for three or four days or a week, and let him get master of the place, especially if the hen be a virago, or else they will fight so much as perhaps may settle in them an absolute aversion for ever after; but if the cock be first master of the house he will beat the hen, if obstinate, into compliance.

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nests; others do not, but put sawdust in their nest-pans. Care should be taken to place the nest so as the young cannot fall out, or they will be liable to be pecked and even killed by the other Pigeons, whose domains they may unfortunately get into, as each pair takes possession of a certain part, and drives all others from it. The two nests for one pair should be so situated that the young may not run into and disturb the old ones when again sitting.

(BRENT.)—It is also necessary in all lofts to have a few matching pens, where any Pigeons can be confined for pairing, or any other purpose.

(BRENT.)—The fitting up of a large Pigeon-house or aviary for fancy sorts will depend much on the taste or inclination of the owner, but attention to the arrangement of the nests may be found useful. Shelves about nine inches wide should be erected eighteen inches apart, and divided by upright partitions at three feet distances; a nine-inch-wide board or slab should be placed up in front at each end of each partition, so as to form two secluded retreats for the nests; the nest-pans if used can be placed in these recesses, and a brick or ledge put across to keep them steady; in the middle of each division should be a partition about five or six inches high, which will prevent the young in one nest running into and disturbing the old birds when sitting again—this partition will also form a roosting place for the old birds; the shelves may be made of well planed boards, but thin slate slabs would be found better, not being so apt to harbour vermin.

(BRENT.)—When fresh Pigeons are introduced into the Pigeon-house they should not be let out till they have fixed upon and taken possession of a nest-place, to facilitate which a framework of laths is useful to hang in front of the shelves, and so confine them to the nests it is desirable for them to take for a few days; but they should also be allowed to go into the trap a few times before they have full liberty, that they may learn the way in and out of their habitation. Attention to these hints may save much trouble and many losses. Beware of cats.

31 to 36.—See J. M. EATON'S Almond Tumbler, paragraphs 428 to 438.

34.—Your pigeons being thus matched, turn them loose into your loft, and let them chose what nest they best like, or if you have a mind to fix them to any particular nest, you may effect it in this manner.—Make a lath machine, the length of your breeding places, closed in at top and bottom with boards, and projecting out as far as your loft will conveniently allow; one of your top boards must lift up with hinges, in order to put in meat and water, this you may hang before any hole, and put your pigeons in it, and when they have been five or six days used to the nest, take it away, in the night is the best time, and they will keep to that nest.

35.—The same method may be used, and is very good, to prevent your strain being adulterated by a false tread, which an over salacious hen will often submit to. Therefore keep them up by this method till the hen has laid both her eggs, then take it away and give them their liberty, till the hen has fed off her soft meat, then the hen will begin to be salacious again, therefore at that time confine them as before, and you are sure to keep your strain pure and entire. This method is somewhat troublesome, and therefore not worth using but for your best pigeons; as for those who breed for the dish, 'tis no matter whether they are bastardized or not.

TO KNOW A COCK FROM AN HEN.

36.—Having thus informed you how to mate or pair your pigeons, I shall next give you some instructions how to form a tolerable judgment whether a pigeon be cock or hen, for in this point the best and oldest Fanciers have been sometimes deceived; for this purpose, therefore, take the following rules.

37.—The hen has generally a shorter breast-bone than the cock.

38.—Her vent, and the os sacrum, or bone near the vent, is more open than in the cock.

39.—Her head and cheeks are thinner, and she does not look so bold as the cock.

40.—Her coo is shorter, and nothing near so loud and masculine as the cock's, besides the cock frequently makes a half round in his playing, which the hen does not, though a merry rank hen will sometimes show, and play almost like a cock, and if very salacious, will sometimes tread another pigeon.

41.—And lastly, in young pigeons, that which squeaks longest in the nest, is generally reputed a hen.

41.—(Mayor, p. 26.) Where there are two in a nest, the largest is thought to be a cock.

(Brent.)—It is rather difficult to determine, but the larger of the two in the nest is generally considered to be the cock, and that which squeaks longest, the hen; but it is a popular error to suppose that every nest contains a pair, for they are quite as often two of the same sex as one of each; those that are accustomed to Pigeons become so well acquainted with their faces that they can almost to a certainty tell the sex at a glance; the cock has a bolder look, the bill stouter at the base, and the cheeks fuller;

THE GENERATION OF PIGEONS.

42.—We come now to treat of the generation of this bird, that is, the method it makes use of for propagation of its species; and here I must acknowledge myself obliged to Dr. HARVEY (*) in his excellent treatise of the generation of animals.

43.—All animals therefore are distinguished into three sorts; oviparous, or such as are formed from an egg; viviparous, or such as are produced from the uterus alive and in perfection; and vermiparous, or such as are formed from a worm.

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between the beak and the eyes there is rather a depression in the hen, but this is only noticeable to a practised eye, indeed the novice must not expect any rules by which he can judge without practice; all rules, too, are liable to exceptions.

(BRENT.)—The ways and manners of the sexes are very different, and if it is desirable to determine more positively the gender of an individual Pigeon, I would advise its being placed in a matching pen by itself, and kept away from the company or even the sight of any other Pigeon for a few days, but at the same time make it as comfortable as possible, and feed it on stimulating food. Then by introducing a known hen to it, if it is a cock, he will immediately play up to her. If it takes no notice, remove the hen, and put in a merry cock, who will soon play to it, and if a hen she will show to him, acknowledging his politeness by bows, twinkling of the eyes, a movement of the throat as if swallowing, raising the shoulders of the wings, strutting about, sometime, spreading her tail, and sweeping forward with a curtsey, and lastly pecking behind her wing; if a cock a battle will be the probable result.

(BRENT.)—The play of the cock is louder, more prolonged, and sonorous, and somewhat resembles in sound, "ah coo-ther-a-coo;" the hen's coo is abrupter, not so sonorous, and delivered more in a flurry, sounding more like "butter-e-ca." The cock, while playing, sweeps the ground with his spread tail, swells out his neck and crop, raises and depresses his head, and often waltzes before the hen; a salacious hen will sometimes play up something like a cock, but she will always submit to a bold dashing cock, and assume a more feminine deportment.

(BRENT.)—Two cocks will occasionally pair, and even build a nest, and two hens frequently do so, and lay and sit, if they are unprovided with mates.

(EATON.)—Two hens will frequently match up, where there are plenty of odd cocks, lay four eggs, sit their time, and beat away the cocks. Where cocks and hens are parted after the breeding season, it is not an uncommon thing for two cocks to match up and sit as close as though they had eggs. I think it an uncommon thing where two pair of birds are matched up. They bred the first half of the season; the two cocks deserted their hens, matched up, set, beat away their hens, if they attempted to go near them. This I consider an uncommon occurrence, and could not understand it. I am sorry it never struck me to observe whether either of the cocks sat at night: it is natural for the hens to sit at night, unnatural for the cocks.

(BRENT.)—SEXES OF PIGEONS IN THE SAME NEST.—As an example of the uncertainty of the sexes of young Pigeons in the same nest, I give the following. I have three pairs of young Dragoon Pigeons now flying about, of this year's hatching; one pair from my best old birds are two hens, another pair from my birds that took a first prize at Farningham, are two cocks, while the third pair from the same old ones are cock and hen.

(BRENT.)—With respect to food, good authorities recommend good old tares and small tick beans. From my own experience I prefer the small bean ("Heligolands") with an occasional change of lentils, peas, wheat, or Indian corn ("Maize"); but Pigeons will eat all sorts of grain and seeds, and do very well on almost any kind, provided they have their liberty, and can find such condiments as small stones, grit, lime in some form, and green food.

42. (GIRTIN, p. 135.) In treating of this subject, we must candidly acknowledge, that we are somewhat indebted to the late ingenious Mr. JOHN MOORE, for the light he has thrown upon it.

* 42. (MAYOR, p. 14.)—We are partly obliged to Dr. HARVEY in his Treatise of the Generation of Animals, and partly to other authors.

44.—Though in fact the fœtus of all kinds of animals is produced from an egg; the only reason therefore of this distinction is, that in some animals, this egg (if I may be allowed the phrase) is hatched, or brought to perfection in the uterus, whereas all of the feathered kind emit or lay this egg, and produce their young from it by incubation.

45.—The Pigeon, therefore, is an oviparous bird; I call it a bird, because all that belong to this genus feed their young ones for some considerable time after they are hatched; whereas, the young ones of the fowl kind will search for their own food, and eat it themselves almost as soon as they are discharged from the shell of that egg in which they were produced.

46.—It will not here be amiss to give some account of the production of the egg. Nature produces in the ovary, or upper matrix of the hen or female bird, a great cluster of small yolks, sticking together like a bunch of grapes, which from this similitude Dr. Harvey calls a vitellary, and adds that in Pigeons, he has observed this cluster of eggs to be all of a like magnitude, excepting only two which were larger than the rest, and were now ready to descend into the lower uterus or womb.

47.—The cock in the act of coition impregnates these eggs, and by a wonderful operation of Nature renders them prolifick; we shall not take upon us here to determine the method by which this is performed, but shall content ourselves with observing that there is a spot at each end of the egg, called by the learned, chalazæ, from the resemblance of a small hail-stone, and, vulgarly, the cock's treadles; these, by a mistake, have been accounted to proceed from the emission of the male, and to contain the plastic virtue of the fœtus, but experience has abundantly proved that these treadles are to be found in all eggs, whether they are prolifick and fruitful or subventaneous and addle.

48.—It is the opinion of most, and that not without great probability, that all the eggs a hen will ever lay, are contained in this vitellary or cluster, and that as soon as this number is exhausted, she will become effæte or barren. Some people therefore to abuse mankind, and vend a useless bird, will oil the vent of a barren hen and force an egg into it, to make you believe she is not effæte; if you happen to be thus imposed on, that you may not lose your seasons of breeding, by keeping such a hen matched to a good cock, we shall give a method to prove whether she be effæte or not. When the cock drives her hard to nest, give her a pair of eggs, and let her hatch them and bring up; pursue this method for two or three pair, if you value her, and if she be not barren; this, and cross-matching her, that is pairing her to another cock, will effectually bring her to laying.

49.—Before we leave this head, we cannot omit mentioning the dalliances made use of by this bird before coition, which are in a manner endearing and peculiar only to them. And here the cock when salacious, will by a voice at that time peculiarly harmonious, and by several pretty, and as we may call them, foppish gestures, woo the female, and endeavour to incline her to his embraces; she, if consenting, will soon shew it by her motions, as sweeping her tail, spreading her wings, and giving a nod with [illegible] say, good sir, you may if you please: fro-

thence they proceed to billing, in which action the hen will put her beak into the cock's, who seems to feed her, after this she will squat and readily receive his tread.

50.—Your hen by this means being rendered prolific, they will seek out a nest, or convenient place, for the repository of their eggs, into which they will carry straw, frail, feathers, and such other materials, as they find proper to form a warm and soft reception for the egg, neither party being at this time idle, though some are more industrious than others, on this account, who will lay their eggs almost on the bare boards.

51.—When a hen is nigh the time of her laying, her mate will pursue her from place to place, not suffering her to be quiet in any place but her nest, out of a peculiar instinct, I suppose, fearing his offspring should be lost, by her dropping her egg in some place improper for incubation. And here you must observe that some cocks are so very hot, that they wont, at such a time, suffer a hen almost to eat, this will render her very weak, and often make her lay a thin-shelled or imperfect egg; to prevent this inconvenience, the best way is to take the cock from her, till the egg become to a greater perfection in the uterus.

52.—Pigeons though they will make a great increase in a year, yet it is not from the number of eggs they lay at one time, for they lay but two, and then immediately proceed to incubation, but from the frequency of the repeated hatchings, which generally happen once in five or six weeks, according as they are good or bad breeders.

53.—When a Pigeon has laid her first egg, she rests one day between, and on the succeeding day lays her second; they generally stand over the first egg, which, if you please, you may call an improper incubation, till the next is laid, and then sit close, that both young ones may be hatched at once, or pretty nearly; though some will sit close on the first, and by that means hatch one young one two days before the other.

54.—The time of a Pigeon's incubation, which trouble is equally divided between the cock and hen, except that the hen always sits at night, is nineteen or twenty days from the first egg, and seventeen or eighteen from the last, at which time you ought to observe whether the eggs are hatched or not, for two special reasons:

55.—First—Because your young ones, for want of due heat, which often happens if the old do not sit close, may want strength to extricate themselves out of the shell, and so die in it for want of air and proper sustenance; for the nutriment they received from the internal part of the egg is by this time exhausted; whenever therefore an affair of this nature happens, if the egg be chipped or cracked with the force of the young one, break the shell all round with your nail, or the head of a pin, and you will find your account in it.

56.—Secondly—If your Pigeons do not hatch, because their eggs are

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53 to 58.—See J. M. Eaton's Almond Tumbler, paragraphs 439 to 441.
53.—See J. Eaton's Almond Tumbler, paragraphs 516 to 523.

addle, or otherwise, you ought to give them a pair, or at least one young one to feed off their moist meat, which would else make them sick, and they will be apt to lay again too soon, which will weaken them very much.

57.—The young ones being thus ushered into the world, naturally leads us to take a view of the manner in which it receives its first sustenance. We have already mentioned soft meat, which is nothing else but a fine soft liquid pap prepared as it were by instinct by the parents, by a dissolution of the hard grains in their craw, against the time that the fœtus is first disclosed, when weak, naked, and helpless; this soft meat they throw up out of their craw, taking the beak of their young ones in their own, and by this means injecting it into theirs; with this meat they continue feeding them for six or seven days, when they begin to mix some harder food amongst it, until at length they feed them with all whole grain.

THEIR DIET.

58.—We come now to treat of their diet, or the food proper for Pigeons. (*) The Pigeon is a granivorous bird, and may be fed with various sorts of grains, as tares, horse-beans, pease, wheat, barley, hempseed, or rape and canary, of each of which in their order. (†)

59.—Of all grains, tares are found to be most adapted to these birds, and old tares are much the best, for the new are very apt to set your Pigeons into a scouring, especially the young ones; the same will likewise happen from old tares, if they have by any means been touched or immersed in salt or sea water; for though Pigeons love salt, yet too much is very pernicious, as for instance, if in a voyage you give them salt water instead of fresh you will soon kill them.

60.—Horse-beans are the next food to tares, but you must take care to get them as small as possible; there are a sort which they call small French ticks, which are good food, and somewhat cheaper than tares, but liable to two inconveniences; first, they are much harder of digestion, and consequently, will not so readily make soft meat for the young ones. Secondly, your Pigeons are sometimes apt to be choaked with them, especially young ones, and such whose oesophagus or gullet is any ways inclinable to be small, as in most long necked Pigeons it is. I had a carrier the other day, which fell down off my house into the yard, and when it was taken up, (I not being at home) it gaped, as I was informed, as if for want of breath, and died in a few minutes. It was very fat, and seemingly in good health; I opened it, to see if I could find any cause from within, but all its internals seemed perfectly sound and in good

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* 58. (Gibtin, p. 113.)—The common Pigeon gives but little trouble, yet the fancy birds require a great deal of attendance.

† 58. (Mayor, p. 27.)—The late grand duke of Tuscany, who was a very great Fancier, used to feed them with the stones of grapes, which in that country are very plentiful and call them together by ringing a bell.

58 to 64.—See J. M. Eaton's Almond Tumbler, paragraphs 550 to 554, "With regard," &c.

order; at last examining more strictly, I found a horse-bean, and that not a very large one, sticking in the lower part of the gullet, which, with some little difficulty, I pulled out; and this, I verily believe, was the only cause of its death.

61.—Pease, wheat, and barley are apt to scour your Pigeons too much, therefore you ought to give them very little, if any, of this sort of food.

62.—There is a sort of diet, called Scotch meat, which is pease, beans, and tares mixed together, some people feed their Pigeons with this, because cheap, but the beans are generally apt to be too large.

63.—Hemp-seed, rape and canary are food that Pigeons are very fond of, but by no means ought to be made their constant diet.

64.—N.B. Even French tick beans are not proper for Dutch Croppers, or any large cropt Pigeons, because they are apt to make them gorge.

THE SALT CAT.

65.—Being thus entered on the head of diet, it necessarily leads us to consider a certain useful composition called by the Fanciers a Salt Cat, so named, I suppose, from a certain fabulous oral tradition of baking a cat in the time of her salaciousness, with cummin seed, and some other ingredients as a decoy for your neighbour's Pigeons; this, though handed down by some Authors as the only method for this purpose, is generally laughed at by the Gentlemen of the Fancy, and never practised.

66.—The right salt cat therefore is, or ought to be thus made: Take gravel or drift-sand, loom, such as the brick-makers use, and the rubbish of an old wall, or for want of this a less quantity of lime, let there be a gallon of each; add to these a pound of cummin seed, a handful of bay salt or salt petre, and beat them all up together into a kind of mortar, mixing them up with stale urine, and your Pigeons will take great delight in it.

67.—The gravel or sand helps to scour their craws, and is of great service to digestion.

68.—The loom being of an unctuous, oily nature, is a very great assistance to them in the discharge of their soft meat, or other meat when they are feeding young ones.

69.—The lime or rubbish helps to harden the shell of their egg; and you will find by experience, that when with egg they are prodigiously fond of lime, and will have it some way or other, if possible. By this means therefore you keep them from pecking the mortar off your own, or your neighbour's houses, though the damage from thence accruing cannot but be very trifling; for the whole length of their beak, and farther they cannot go, cannot reach far enough to loosen any tile that is naturally firm.

70.—The salt and urine is a great provocation to drink, and this is no small service to your Pigeons, which are of a very hot nature.

71.—The cummin seed, which has a strong smell in which Pigeons

delight, will keep your own Pigeons at home, and allure others that are straying about, and at a loss where to fix upon a habitation.

72.—The best way is to put your salt cat in jars, with holes in the sides for them to peck it out, and a cork at top to prevent their dunging on it, and to keep off the rain, or any other contingencies if exposed to the weather.

DISTEMPERS OF PIGEONS.

73.—We come now to treat of the several distempers incident to birds of this kind, and to prescribe the various remedies generally made use of in their cure.

74.—1. The first disease therefore that we shall take notice of is, the corruption of the egg in the uterus; this generally proceeds from an unmatched hen being over salacious, by reason of high feeding, or some other cause, who will often without the coition of the male engender eggs, but seldom without his concurrence either perfect them or bring them forth, so that they will corrupt in the womb; the only remedy for this is to put her to a cock in time.

75.—2. The wet roop next falls under our consideration, and in this case, once in two or three days give them three or four pepper corns at most, and put a handful of green rue in their water, you may let all your Pigeons drink of it, for it is very healthful.

76.—3. The dry roop, which you generally distinguish by a husky cough; and I am apt to believe proceeds from a cold, to which they are very liable, especially in molting time; to cure this, give them every day three or four cloves of garlick.

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73 to 98.—See J. M. EATON'S Almond Tumbler, paragraphs 558 to 565. "As a," &c.

73 to 98. (GIRTIN, p. 124.)—In treating of the diseases relating to Pigeons, we shall chiefly follow the sentiments of the late Mr. JOHN MOORE, who was not only a very judicious Fancier, but also a gentleman of the faculty, who spared no pains to make himself acquainted with the diseases of these birds, and to apply the best method of cure, therefore, without further apology, we shall take him for our guide. MAYOR and GIRTIN gives word for word the late Mr. JOHN MOORE, on distempers and cures, and nothing more.

73 to 98. (EATON.)—I would strongly recommend the young and inexperienced Fancier to put in practice the remedies as laid down by MOORE, whenever any of his Pigeons are suffering from distempers or accidents from whatever cause. I entertain a much higher opinion of the remedies prescribed, when I ascertained from his Work, Columbarium, or the Pigeon-house, that he was a medical man: his Work shews how great an observer he was of a Pigeon, which he only kept as a fancy, and to relieve the mind. I cannot help thinking, one who thought so hard and deeply on a Pigeon, thought equally as hard, or more deeply on his profession, and was a credit and an ornament to the profession to which he belonged; and it must be so with you, provided you think hard and deeply on the Pigeon. I am then convinced that you are blessed with the means to think hard and deeply on matters of infinite greater importance. Entertaining so high an opinion of his advice and instructions all throughout his Work, I advise you that if unfortunately any of your Pigeons are overtaken with diseases or accidents, which most assuredly they will, apply MOORE'S remedies, and the sooner it is discovered the better, remembering the Poet's advice, "A stitch in time, saves nine."

77.—4. The next distemper that falls under our cognizance is, the canker, which proceeds mostly from the cocks fighting and pecking each other, though some people have assured me, that giving them water in a tin vessel, will likewise throw them into this disease. The method of cure is this, take burnt alum and honey and rub the part affected every day and it will cure it; but if this happens not to take effect, dissolve five grains of roman vitrol in half a spoonful of wine vinegar, add it to the former composition, and rub the part affected. Some people will take off the scurf and make it bleed, before they apply the remedy, but I am apt to believe, you will generally find it searching enough without.

78.—5. If the wattles or flesh round the eyes of the carrier, horseman, or barb, are pecked and torn, wash them first with stale urine for several days; if this does not do, dissolve two drams of alum in an ounce and a half of water and wash the part grieved; but if the case be very stubborn, mix twenty grains of red precipitate with half an ounce of honey, anoint the part therewith and it will certainly effect the cure.

79.—6. Pigeons, especially in the Summer season, are apt to be troubled with small insects, which the Fanciers term lice; in this case, smoak their feathers well with the smoak of tobacco, and it will infallibly kill them.

80.—7. There is another sort of small vermin, which are very troublesome, and will often kill your young ones in the nest, by creeping into their ears, &c., especially when first hatched, and always prevent their thriving; to hinder this, strew tobacco dust in the nest, and over your young Pigeons, and it will destroy these vermin, which are called pigeons bugs by some, and by others the blacks.

81.—8. Another disease to which they are subject is gizzard-fallen, that is, the gizzard falls down to the vent. The gentlemen of the fancy, say it proceeds from weakness, though I rather believe it is caused by feeding with too much hemp-seed. I know no cure for this malady, unless nature herself works one, which it sometimes will in young pigeons.

82.—9. The next distemper is what the Fancy calls navel-fallen; in this case, there is a kind of bag hanging down near the vent. This malady is generally desperate; and if giving them clary, or some other strengthening things won't cure them, I know nothing that will.

83.—10. Pigeons are liable to be pap-arsed, as the fancy call it. This distemper proceeds either from a natural innate weakness, or from a cock's being too salacious and treading his hen too often; I know no cure for it, except flying will do it. Young pigeons and carriers are most subject to it especially if not flown.

84.—11. Some pigeons, as croppers, and powters, are apt to gorge themselves, that is, when they have been too long from grain, they will eat so much that they cannot digest it, but it will lie and corrupt in the crop and kill the pigeon. If this therefore at any time happens, take the following method.

85.—Put them in a strait-stocking, with their feet downward, stroaking up the crop, that the bag which contains the meat may not hang down; then hang the stocking upon a nail, keeping them in this manner, till they have digested their food, only not forgetting to give them now and and then a little water, and it will often cure them; but when you take them out of the stocking, put them in an open basket or coop, giving them but a little meat at a time, or else they will be apt to gorge again.

86.—If this does not effect the cure, you may slit the crop from the bottom with a penknife or sharp pair of scissars, take out the corrupted meat, wash the crop, and then sew it up again. This method has been practised with some success, though the crop will not be so round as before.

87.—Others will tie that part of the crop, in which the undigested meat lies, tight round with a string, and let it rot off. This method never fails, though it spoils the shape of the crop.

88.—12. The next and most fatal distemper incident to this kind of birds is the vertigo, or (as generally styled by the Fancy) the megrims; in this disease the pigeon reverts or turns its head, in such a manner, that the beak will lie on its back, and will flutter and fly about at random. This distemper is usually reckoned incurable, and indeed it too often proves so; though I once had a turbit, of the owl kind, taken with it in a violent manner. Some gentlemen seeing it, advised me to pull the head off; I told them, I would first try if I could not cure it, which they asserted to be impossible; however, I took about a quarter of a pint of water, an ounce and a half of spirit of lavender, one drachm of spirit of sal armoniac distilled with quick lime; these I mingled together, then I tasted it, and found it too strong for the bird, and therefore added a little more water; I believe in three or four hours, I poured down its throat, at three or four times, a spoonful and a half of this mixture, for I had rather it should die than live in that condition; at last it began to discharge a white slimy substance upwards and downwards, but did not care to feed that day; the next day I found it better, but still it would hold its head on one side or awry. This medicine I gave it every third or fourth day, still lessening the quantity; I gave it garlic the days betwixt, and sometimes two or three peppercorns till perfectly recovered; I am not certain whether this pigeon ever bred afterwards or no.

89.—13. If your pigeons do not molt off kindly, or stop in their molting, so that they don't throw their feathers well, it is a certain sign of

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88.—12. (Eaton.) The vertigo, or megrims, I have observed, attacks the birds in bitter cold weather, where the lofts are very high and cold, and the birds are not allowed to fly at large. It sometimes happens in this complaint the birds keep their necks out straight and stiff as a poker, only twisting or moving their heads a little (and, if I may use the term, appear like stuck pigs). From observation you will perceive the complaint lies in the head. The only cause I can give for it is, that the cold weather affects the bird's head, read paragraphs 557, 558, 559, and 565. I recollect taking and pointing out Moore, paragraph 88, and I have no doubt it was the prescription that cured my black mottle cock. I put it in a basket before the fire in hopes of more circulating its blood. Some Fanciers make a small incision in the roof of the mouth to let out a little blood. See J. M. Eaton, Almond Tumbler, paragraph 565.

an ill state of health; to remedy this, the following method will be of use.

90.—Pluck their tail-feathers out, and put them up in some warm place, allowing them a larger portion of hempseed with their ordinary food, a little saffron, or clary, steeped in their water, is likewise very beneficial; some will give them elder-berries or cochineal for that purpose.

91.—14. Your pigeons likewise, especially in molting time, will be subject to scouring, which keeps them very poor, low, and out of flesh. To cure this, give them pump-water with a lump of chalk in it, or put about the quantity of two horse beans down their throats every day; if that don't effect the desired end, give them some smiths forge water down their throats which is very binding. A gentleman told me, that having been informed, that gravel was good for his pigeons, he gave them some of the grit that is left in the trough under a grindle stone, where they ground edge tools, and it bound them so much that it killed most of them; a little of this may therefore be good in case of scouring.

92.—15. There is another distemper, which is called the small pox, in which there rise, on their legs and wings, and body, eruptions or pustules full of a yellow matter. Some open them, and apply burnt alum and honey, or touch them with Roman vitriol, and it will cure them.

93.—16. When your pigeons are sick, lowering, or hang their wings, give them every day a spider or two, wrapt up in butter, and if you dare trust them let them fly.

94.—17. Pigeons will be sometimes lamed, and the ball of their foot swelled, either through cold, or the prick of a nail: in this case, spread some venice turpentine on brown paper, apply it to the part, leave it there till well, which it will be in a very few days.

95.—18. The flesh-wen comes next under our consideration, which is no more but a fleshy tumour, arising on the joints of the wings or legs: this may be either cut off, or opened, and after having taken out the kernel, wash it with alum water.

96.—19. The bone-wen is an ossificated tumor, arising upon the joints as before: this is seldom or never cured, and the pigeon that is affected with it will never breed. Some pretend to cure it by a composition of quick lime and black soap; but if you make it too strong, or let it lie on too long, it will take off the leg or other part that 'tis applied to, for it is a caustic.

97.—20. The last distemper I shall take notice of is a core, so called because it resembles the core of an apple; it is hard and generally of a yellowish colour, intermixed with red, and is usually found in the anus or

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97.—20. (MAYOR, p. 34.) We come now to treat of the several distempers incident to birds of this kind, and to prescribe the various remedies generally made use of in their cure. MAYOR made a slight omission here, forgetting to mention he took word for word from MOORE "On Distempers, Prescriptions, and Cures," without having the candour to acknowledge it. GIRTIN has more candour.

vent. This when ripe may be forced or drawn out; and in order to ripen it and keep them loose, give your pigeon so affected a purge of tobacco; a very small quantity is sufficient: I have known this make them discharge the core themselves. I once knew a pigeon affected with this sort of malady, in the œsophagus, or throat, some part was taken out, but the bird died.

THEIR USEFULNESS.

98.—Having thus instructed you how to breed, preserve, and cure your pigeons, we shall next show their usefulness in human life.

99.—It is a bird well known to be much used by way of food; and here I shall give you the remarks of one or two authors on this head. Mr. Lemery in his treatise of foods, after having advised to the choice of young pigeons, that are tender, fleshy, and well fed, proceeds thus, "They are nourishing, somewhat binding, strengthening and provoke urine: they are looked upon to be good for cleansing the reins, and to expel the gross matters that stick there.

100.—As a pigeon grows old, so proportionably does its flesh become dryer, and more solid; harder of digestion, and so fit to produce gross and melancholy humours; and hence it is, that some authors have condemned the use of pigeons, and look upon them to be bad food.

101.—"They agree at all times with any age and constitution, but those that are melancholy ought to make use of them more moderately than other persons."

102.—Dr. Salmon in his Seplasium, or English Physician, which I look upon as the best book he ever wrote, says, "The flesh is not so easy of digestion as that of chickens. Authors say that eating of their flesh is profitable against the plague, insomuch that they who make it their constant or ordinary food, are seldom seized with pestilential distempers. Others commend it against the palsie or trembling. Others say it is of great use and advantage to them that are dim-sighted. The flesh of young pigeons is restorative, and of good use to such as are in consumptions, and to recruit the strength of such, as are getting up, or newly recovered from some great sickness: It is indeed savory and good food, and not much inferior to the most esteemed. The anus of a live pigeon, applied to the biting of a serpent, viper, or rattle snake, draws away the poison and cures the sick, being renewed as often as the pigeon dies; applied to the soles of the feet in a fever, it draws away the fever, and helps the megrims or head ache. Cut up alive and applied to the place pained, eases the pain and draws away the malignity, if any be; for the vital spirit yet remaining in the hot flesh and blood, do insinuate themselves through the pores of the skin, into the blood of the sick person, now dispirited and ready to stagnate, enduring it with new life and vigour. Potestates made of the flesh, admirably cure consumptions, and restore wasted flesh.

103.—"The blood put warm into the eyes allays pain, cures blear eyes, and also green wounds.

104.—"℞ of the blood ℥ji, honey ʒvj, white sugar candy ʒij; grind

them together till they are well mixed, for the purposes aforesaid ; as also against suffusions, blood-shots, and other distempers and weaknesses of the eyes.

105.—" The coats of the stomach, ℞ of them powdered ʒij opium in fine powder 4 grains, catechu in fine powder ℈ij ; mix them. Dose 12 or 13 grains every night on going to bed.

106.—" The Doctor has left us in the dark what distemper this medicine is designed to cure, but I am apt to believe it is for a diarrhœa, yet I can't see of what use the coats of pigeons stomachs can be, unless from their diuretic quality.

107.—" The feathers. ℞ of the ashes of them ʒß, sanguis draconis, fine bole, sheeps blood dried, fine aloes, ana ʒj ; mix them. It stops bleeding in any part, being applied."

THEIR DUNG.

108.—Having thus shown you something of the usefulness of this bird, both in food and physic, I cannot omit saying something of its most excrementitious part.

109.—The dung therefore of pigeons challengeth the priority, not only of the dung of fowls, but of all other creatures whatsoever, on the account of its usefulness in human life.

110.—Its benefit in agriculture is so well known to some farmers, that Plat gives an account of those that have fetched it sixteen miles, and given a load of coals in lieu of it. Where he observes, that in the place it was fetched from, it would have done more hurt than good, whereas where it was carried, it did as much good as double the charges; in the one soil it cured the barrenness, whereas in the other it would have poisoned the fertility.

111.—It is of a very hot nature, from the nitrous quality wherewith it is endued, and therefore it is a very excellent soil for a cold, moist natured ground. It is generally used for wheat and barley that lye afar off, and not easily to be helped. One load of it is worth ten load of other dung, and will go as far in manuring of land. It is generally sown after the same manner as the grain, and harrowed in with it.

112.—It is likewise extraordinary good soil for a hop garden.

113.—Tanners make use of it in tanning the upper leathers, and if you pick and sift it, will give you eightpence a bushel for it, provided you send it home to their own houses ; so that this article, and the young sqabs will nearly, if not quite maintain your pigeons in food, provided you buy it at the best hand, and take care to keep them clean.

114.—Dr. Salmon, in his treatise before mentioned gives us the following account of its usefulness in medicine.

115.—" It is, says he, of common use in cataplasms or plaisters which rubify or draw strongly. Beaten, sifted, and mixed with water-cress seeds, it is good against chronic diseases ; such as the gout, megrim, vertigo, cephalæo, pains in the side, cholic, apoplexes, lethargies, &c."

116.—After this he gives us several recipes in which the dung of pigeons is a main ingredient, as,

117.—1 R. Of the dung in powder ℥iiij, barley meal or flower ℥iij, vinegar q. f. mix them, to make a cataplasm against scrophulous and other like hard tumors.

118.—"2 R. Of the powder of the dung ℥ij, bears grease ℥iiij, pepper in powder ℥j, oil of cummin seed ℥ß; mix them for an oil against baldness.

119.—"3 R. Of the dung in powder ℥iiij, black soap ℥iij, oil of amber ℥j, Mithridate, ℥ij; mix them for a cataplasm to ripen a plague sore.

120.—"4 R. Of the powder of the dung ℥j. Powder of winter cherries ℥ß Cromwell seed ʒij; mix them and make a powder against the stone. Dose, from ʒß to ʒj."

121.—This dung is used likewise in salt-petre beds, and is of very great advantage in the nourishing and production of it; and till the days of Oliver Cromwell, we had no salt-petre brought from abroad, but it was made at home, from a mixture of pigeon's dung, fowls dung, hogs dung, fat earth and lime, which with another ingredient will form salt-petre, only it must be kept covered with a shed, to prevent or keep off the rain, that it may only mix with the nitrous quality of the air; and therefore when this commodity is very dear, as it often has been, and may be again, the salt-petre men produce it after this manner to this very day, by throwing in the scum or refuse of their salt-petre amongst it.

122.—Thus we have shown the various uses even of the most disesteemed and excrementitious part; but before we leave this head, we cannot forbear mentioning the following story out of Tavernier, in the fourth book of his first Volume of Persian Travels, page 146.

123.—Says he, speaking of the people of Ispahan, "As for their Pigeons, they fly wild about the country, but only some which they keep tame in the City to decoy the rest, which is a sport the Persians use in hot weather as well as cold. Now in regard the Christians are not permitted to keep Pigeons, some of the vulgar sort will turn to Mahometans to have that liberty. There are above three thousand Pigeon-houses in Ispahan, for every man may build a Pigeon house upon his own farm, which yet is very rarely done, all the other Pigeon houses belong to the king, who draws a greater revenue from the dung than from the Pigeons; which dung, as they prepare it, serves to smoak their melons."

COLUMBA TABELLARIA. *The Carrier Pigeon.*

124.—The Carrier is larger in size than most of the common

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124. (Eaton.)—Mr. Moore observes, a Carrier is larger in size than most of the common sorts of Pigeons; this is true, he measured one, whose length, from the point of the beak to the extremity of the tail, was fifteen inches, though not one of the largest, weighed near twenty ounces. I believe a Carrier cannot be too long from the

Carrier

sorts of Pigeons: I measured one the other day, whose length from the point of the beak to the extremity of the tail was fifteen inches; this, though not one of the largest, weighed near twenty ounces. Their flesh is naturally firm, and their feathers close, when they stand erect upon their legs, their necks being usually long, there appears in them a wonderful symmetry of shape beyond other Pigeons, which are generally crowded on heaps.

125.—The upper chap of the bill is half covered from the head, with a naked, white, tuberous, furfuraceous flesh, which projects or hangs over both its sides on the upper part nearest the head, and ends in a point about the middle of the bill: this is called the wattle, and is sometimes joined by two small excrescences of the same kind on each side of the under chap.

126.—This flesh is in some carriers more inclinable to a blackish colour, which is generally the more valued.

127.—The eyes, whose iris, or circle round the black pupil, is generally of the colour of a reddish gravel,(*) are equally surrounded with the same sort of furfuraceous matter, for about the breadth of a shilling; this is generally thin when it spreads wide, and is most valued, yet when the flesh round the eye is thick and broad it shows the carriers to be of a good blood that will breed very stout ones.

128.—This bird is often esteemed, by the gentlemen of the Fancy, as the King of Pigeons, on account of its beauty and great sagacity; for which reason Mr. Hickman, a distiller in Bishopsgate-street (not of the family of the lying Hickmans) when living, always kept a silver hatchet

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point of the beak to the extremity of the tail, neither can it stand too high, provided it is done with length of neck instead of length of legs, with a short neck; I do not know that it is desirable to have such a heavy bird, it looks runtish; this much I do know, it is desirable it should have a wonderful degree of symmetry, shape, carriage or style. I once saw a Carrier, at one of the acknowledged best Carrier Fanciers we have, he pointed it out to me, and said, with age it would make one of the most extraordinary Carriers that ever was seen. Sometime after, seeing an excellent Carrier Fancier, I asked him if he had seen Mr. ——'s promising young Carrier, he said he had, that it was not a Carrier, but a goose. I think I have seen better Carriers "Multum in Parvo," with all their beautiful properties conspicuously showing, than in the heavy large birds, that have the appearance of courseness. It is laughable at times to hear one Fancier, comparatively speaking, cut off the nose of a brother Fancier. This may arise from having been contradicted before, and biding his time, the first opportunity to pay with interest after a time. A Fancier must have a firm determined opinion of his own (I had nearly said right or wrong), otherwise I think he never will be a Fancier if tossed about by every wind or tide of pretended consequential Fanciers. I know some Fanciers that have asserted things, so stick to it, sooner than eat their own words, would die first, for in course of time Fanciers forget them; I would as soon attempt to bag a bull, that is, put my hand down its throat, catch hold of its tail, and turn him inside out, as to attempt to convince some. They are wrong after asserting a thing, at the same time a Fancier must have a firm opinion of his own.

* 127. (Mayor, p. 86.)—"But should be a fiery red." (Girtin, p. 61.)—"Of a red brick-dust color."

127. (Eaton.)—Mayor is decidedly right as to the iris of the eye, the more fiery red infinitely the better, and it is the opinion of the best Carrier Fanciers of the present day.

and block, on which he decently chopped off their heads, alledging, that being of the blood royal, they ought not to die after the same manner as the vulgar herd.

129.—A carrier is generally reckoned to have twelve properties, viz.

Three in the beak,
Three in the wattle.
Three in the head.
Three in the eye.

130.—To begin therefore with the first, the properties of the beak are to be long, strait, and thick.

131.—As to its length, an inch and a half is reckoned a long beak, though there are very good carriers that are found not to exceed an inch and a quarter.

132.—The straitness of the beak adds a wonderful beauty to its length, and if otherwise it is said to be hooked-beaked, and is not so much esteemed.

133.—The thickness of the beak is likewise a very great commendation,

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129. (EATON.)—According to Mr. MOORE, (Paragraph 129,) a Carrier is reckoned to have twelve properties, &c. and all in that small portion of the bird—the Head ; allowing no property to test the Carrier by that standard, laid down with regard to the wonderful symmetry and elegance of shape ; although in former times it was called by the Gentlemen of the Fancy "the King of Pigeons," for its elegance and sagacity. An umpire, unequal to the office he was filling, might award the prize from the general appearance of the bird (its elegance and symmetry of shape) although it was not laid down as one out of the twelve properties to test the Carrier by, and I think we are greatly indebted for the judicious remarks of MAYOR. After all, my brother Fanciers, I will be candid, and inform you, that I do not believe the Carrier to be an original bird, but bred up to the highest possible pitch, by the Fancier, from the Horseman—when at this high pitch or standard then it is called a Carrier, nor is it possible to prevent the degeneration by any art whatever, which I shall endeavour to prove when I come to the Horseman.

131. (EATON.)—In MOORE'S day an inch and a half was reckoned a long beak, although at this time, there are beaks that would measure one inch and three quarters, and some few two inches ; it is infinitely better to have a beak one inch and a half in a right position, possessing the properties, straight and thick, than have a beak upon which tricks have been played when young and coaxed to the length of two inches, and spindle beaked. The experienced Fanciers are aware how some measure, as I said before. Position, thickness, and straitness of the beak causes the admiration of Fanciers ; if you refer to my set of six coloured portraits, "life size," and examine the Carrier, you will find the beak two inches full, and if measured from the back of the head to the end of the beak, nearly three inches, understanding that in some parts of the country they measure this way. I once saw three Carriers at a show, if measured round the hook beak (instead of straight) would have measured two and a half inches, awfully hooked beaked and looked anything but what a Carrier's beak should look. When I pointed it out to the party to whom they belonged, the answer I received was, that the horn was allowed to grow to decide a wager, I thought a pretty sort of wager. He put the beak of one of them into his mouth and bit off about three-fourths of an inch, the beak appeared straighter and not so hooked beak. I thought if it had been possible to have worked this two and a half inch beak up as you can putty, and formed a beak as it ought to be that MOORE states in Paragraphs 130, 131, 132, and 133 ; simply think of this Gentlemen Carrier Fanciers, who are so rampant for long beaks.

133. (GIRTIN, p. 63.)—Beak a black color.

and if it fails in this point it is said to be spindle beaked, which diminishes something of its value.

134.—The next three properties are those of the wattle, which ought to broad across the beak; short from the head towards the apex, or point of the bill, and tilting forward from the head; for if otherwise it is said to be pegg-wattled, which is very much disesteemed; and, therefore, some people (*) to impose upon mankind, and enhance the price of an indifferent bird, have artificially raised the hinder part of the wattle, filled it up with cork, and wired it in with fine wire, in such a manner as not to be easily perceptible, especially to gentlemen who are not adepts in the Fancy.

135.—We now come to consider the properties of the head, which are its length, its narrowness, and its flatness. When a Carrier has a long, narrow head, and a very flat scull, it is much admired, and if otherwise it is said to be barrel headed.

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133. (EATON.)—Fanciers generally make use of the term box beak, well understood by Fanciers; I cannot say I admire the term, for it does not clearly define the meaning to a young Fancier who resides in the country, and has not the advantage of meeting many Fanciers. The construction I put upon it is, that it is deep, thick, and somewhat square; the term I like best is, thick or deep, the contrary of broad or wide, otherwise the Carrier must have a wide head, the contrary of what it should have. See Paragraph 135, MOORE, its narrowness, &c., for a Carrier cannot have a broad or wide beak with a narrow head, neither is it coveted or desired, on the contrary, a particularly narrow, deep, and thick beak the reverse of a spindle beak.

* 134. (MAYOR, p. 82.)—"To impose upon the ignorant."

134. (EATON.)—MOORE beautifully observes, "short from the head towards the apex, &c." I have heard some good Fanciers say, they did not care if the wattle on the beak came down to the end of the beak, I said good Fanciers, because I know they are good Fanciers; there is no accounting for taste, as the old woman said when she kissed the cow, is not the picture striking. The wattle on the beak should in fact tilt both ways, from the head towards the beak and from the beak towards head, snug and compact, showing one half of the beautiful deep thick or box beak. I know an acknowledged first-rate Fancier, a Gentleman who has been a Carrier Fancier thirty or forty years, who is trying all he knows to breed his carriers without wattle on the under beak, while others strive to have as much on the under as on the top beak, and contend that the wattle on the upper and lower beak should resemble a walnut pealed, and equally divided. However good Fanciers differ in minor points, they all agree in the majors, and all good Fanciers agree when they see a good bird; at the same time, when the wattle reaches near the end of the beak, the wattle appears in a slanting direction, the opposite of what it ought to be. The beautiful deep thick or box beak in Paragraphs 125 and 134, Mr. MOORE states, the bill is half covered from the head with wattle, short from the head towards the apex or point of the bill. It appears to me the Carriers in MOORE'S day made a more decided dead stop of the wattle on the beak, shewed more of the beak and less wattle under the beak. I have not any doubt when some of the Carrier Fanciers read this account, they will waggishly say, the Fanciers in MOORE'S day did not know how to obtain wattle, or putty, as some good Fanciers judiciously call it, when over-crowded and not in the right place. It is not so much the quantity as the position, for a Carrier, generally speaking, never looks better than when two and a half or three years old.

135. (EATON.)—The narrowness of its head is decidedly one of its greatest beauties, particularly if long and straight, with a slight hollow impression or dent in the middle, the contrary of round or barrel headed as it is called; and if possible the head should not run out wide at the back of the head, but even all the way through, not any wider behind than in front of its head.

136 —The last three properties are those of the eye, which ought to be broad, round, and of an equal thickness; for if one part of the eye be thinner than the rest, it's said to be pinch-eyed, which is deemed a very great imperfection; whereas if it has the contrary properties, it is said to have a rose-eye which is very valuable.

137.—To these, some add the distance, which is between the hinder part of the wattle, and the edge of the eye; but I cannot allow this to be a property, because when a Carrier comes to be three or four years old, if the eye is broad and the wattle large, they must of necessity meet: the distance therefore seems to be rather a property of the horseman, of which more in its proper place.

138.—Another distinguishing mark of a Carrier is the length and thinness of its neck, which some call a property; and it must be allowed to

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136. (Eaton.)—It generally happens if one part of the eye is thinner than the rest, it is at the back of the eye; my attention was called to this by one of the most experienced successful Fanciers that ever lived, the late John T. Sawyer, Esq., of Portman Square, London. There are many Fanciers living at this time, 1858, who know what I am about to state is true, he was the Fancier who brought the Tumbler, Carrier, and Pouter, to a nearer state of perfection than any other Fancier in his day; I shall never forget his remark to me when shewing me Carriers, he stated if a young Carrier be thinner or pinched at the back of the eye it never would have a good or rose eye, if, on the contrary, the wattle is stout or thick at the back of the eye, it will have a good or rose eye. This remark is particularly worth the young Fanciers attention, in looking after young Carriers and how they will make up, as regards having a good or rose wattle eye.

137. (Eaton.)—I think it might not perplex some of the younger Fanciers if Mr. Moore had added the words on the beak, it would then read thus,—"to these some add the distance, which is between the hinder part of the wattle 'on the beak' and the edge of the eye," &c. &c. I think without those three words it might bother the young Fancier, otherwise paragraph 137 I think cannot be improved.

138. (Eaton.)—In Mr. Moore's day, according to paragraph 129, a Carrier was reckoned to have twelve properties, &c., and all in that small portion of the bird the head, allowing not a single property to test the Carrier by, as touching length and thinness of neck, length of body and feather, notwithstanding their wonderful symmetry, elegance, and shape, although in former times it was called by the Gentlemen of the Fancy "the king of Pigeons," for its elegance and sagacity. A judge unequal to the office he was filling might award the prize, although it was not laid down as even one of the twelve properties to test the Carrier by, is its shape, carriage, style, length and thinness of neck, and length of body. Standing erect on its legs, the broader the chest the better, slenderness of girt; after all this is only one property out of the five properties, according to the standard laid down by Mayor, which is noticed by Moore in paragraph 138, but not laid down by him as a property. I think we are greatly indebted to Mr. Mayor, page 84, for the judicious remarks he makes as touching the properties of the Carriers, he says,—"but in my opinion the above twelve properties would be better and not so liable to be confused, if they were reduced to five properties, viz.:—

1st. The Beak.
2nd. The Wattle.
3rd. The Head.
4th. The Eye.
5th. Length and thinness of neck, and length of body."

But as the Gentlemen of that Fancy have not yet taken upon them to fix a proper standard, as has been done for the Almond Tumbler and the Pouter, the above is submitted to their consideration. The reducing the twelve properties to five simplifies, and

add a very great beauty to this bird, especially considering the breadth of its chest. (*)

139.—Its feather is chiefly black or dun, though there are likewise blues, whites, and pieds of each feather, but the black and dun answer best the foregoing properties; yet the blues, and blue pieds are generally esteemed for their scarcity, though they will not usually come up to the properties of the foregoing feathers. (†)

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is generally adopted by the Gentlemen of the Fancy who are appointed to the office of judges at shows, in former years, and at the present time (1858); at the same time good Carrier Fanciers do not allow one of the twelve properties in the head to escape them.

* 138. (MAYOR, p. 83.)—"The broader the chest the better, for which reason the head should incline backward, which shows it more advantageously."

139. (EATON.)—As the black and dun answered best when Mr. MOORE published his work in 1735, so they do now after a lapse of 123 years; at the same time, generally speaking, blacks are the greatest favourites, even provided they are equal in their properties, owing the contrast of the black feather and the wattle being the greater. 'Tis said a good horse cannot be a bad colour; a good Carrier may.

(EATON.)—It does not necessarily follow, simply because MOORE in his arrangement of the Carriers' properties—beak, wattle, head, and eye, and MAYOR, who follows with the addition—length and thinness of neck and length of body—if we added this last property of MAYOR'S to MOORE'S twelve, we should make thirteen properties in the Carrier, and four, or five as laid down by MAYOR. Were I asked to arrange the properties of the Carrier, according to their best properties, I should regard length and thinness of neck, length of body, great width of chest, slenderness of girt, standing erect on its legs, &c., after all, as combining only one property, shape or carriage, which I consider the grandest property in a pigeon, with few exceptions, viz.,—in the Powter length of leg or limb, the Barb the eye, &c. At the same time shape and carriage is a grand property in every pigeon. I have heard some Fanciers state there is a difference between shape and carriage. I never heard any one define the difference; I consider shape and carriage synonymous. Second property, the head; third property, the beak; fourth property, the eye; fifth property, the wattle. The properties then would be as follows, viz.:—

1st.—Length and Thinness of Neck, Length of Body, great Width of Chest, Slenderness of Girt, Standing erect on the Legs, &c.
2nd.—The Head.
3rd.—The Beak.
4th.—The Eye.
5th.—The Wattle.

Selecting Head as second property, which is its length, its narrowness, and its flatness—having an exceedingly narrow, even head. Although so desirable, 'tis certain you will not have a wide, broad Beak, which is a fault. 'Tis possible you may have a deep, thick box-beak, which is so desirable. Third property, the Beak, long, straight, and thick, I cannot help thinking that a bird having these three grand properties, the other two are likely to follow, viz., Eye and Wattle. 'Tis certain a bird possessing the first three properties I have laid down came from superior birds. "A wag" may say anything; therefore it may be as well to put into his mouth a few words what to say—a "Speary Dragon" or a "Skin-um." A good Carrier Fancier knows what such a bird as I have been describing comes from, and what it is likely to breed. Fourth property, the Eye, broad, round, thick, a rose-eye, &c. Fifth property, Wattle, broad, short and tilting. To sum up the whole, as a sum of addition, I simply put it to you by rule of subtraction, which property can you subtract from the five properties without greatly injuring the bird? I tell you plainly, you require all the properties in an eminent degree to constitute an extra bird or an A 1 Carrier.

† 139. (MAYOR, p. 84.)—But, in my opinion, the above twelve properties would

140.—The original of these Pigeons came from Bazora, in Persia, being sometimes brought by shipping, and sometimes in the caravans; hence by some ignorant people they are called buffories.

141.—This city is situate about two miles distant from a river called Xat Arab, which is formed by the meeting of the two great rivers Tigris and Euphrates; near this place is a small house, like a hermitage, dedicated to Iza ben Mariam, that is, Jesus the son of Mary; in passing which place, the Mahometans themselves very devoutly offer up their prayers: there is likewise a considerable quantity of land, whose revenues belong to this chapel.

142.—We come now to give an account of the name which is given to this pigeon, and it is called a Carrier, because it is frequently made use of to carry a letter from one place to another. And such is the admirable cunning, or sagacity of this bird, that though you carry them hood-winked, twenty or thirty miles, nay I have known them to be carried threescore or a hundred, and there turned loose, (*) they will immediately hasten to the place where they were bred. The Dutch call this pigeon bagadat, I suppose, from a corruption of the name of the city Bagdad, which was formerly old Babylon which Nimrod built, because they judge this pigeon in its way from Bazora to be brought through that city.

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be better, and not so liable to be confused, if they were reduced to five properties, viz.:—

1st. The Beak.
2nd. The Wattle.
3rd. The Head.
4th. The Eye.
5th. Length and Thinness of Neck, and Length of Body.

But as the gentlemen of that Fancy have not yet taken upon them to fix a proper standard, as has been done for the Almond Tumbler and the Pouter, the above is submitted to their consideration. The reducing the twelve properties to five, simplifies, and is generally adopted by the Gentlemen of the Fancy, who are appointed to the office of Judges.

140. (Eaton.)—It is not my intention to attempt to bother you as to where this pigeon came from; 'tis pleasing work to look at a pen of exquisite Carriers, as I have many times seen, and difficult enough to breed a better bird.

* 142. (Girtin, p. 65.)—The winged messenger no sooner finds itself at large, than its love for its native home influences all its motions. It immediately flies up into the clouds to an almost imperceptible height, and then with great certainty and exactness, darts itself, by some unknown intuitive principle, towards its native spot, which is frequently at the distance of many miles, bringing its message to the person to whom it is directed. By what visible means they discover the place, or by what compass they are conducted in the right way, is equally mysterious and unknown; but it has been proved, by experiment, that they will perform a journey of forty miles in the space of one hour and a half; which is a degree of dispatch three times sooner than the swiftest four-footed animal can possibly perform.

(Girtin, p. 66.)—Extraordinary attention was formerly paid to the training of these pigeons, in order to be sent from governors in a besieged city to generals that were coming to succour it; from princes to their subjects, with news of some important transaction.

143.—In Turkey they call them Bagatins or Couriers, and the Turks and Persians make a common practice of breeding this sort of Pigeons in their Seraglios, where there is one, whose business it is to feed and train these birds, for the use afterwards designed, which they do in this manner: when a young one flies very hard at home, and is come to its full strength, they carry it in a basket, or otherwise, about half a mile from home, and there they turn it out; after this they will carry it a mile, then two, four, eight, ten, twenty and so on, till at length they will return from the farthest parts of the kingdom. This practice is of admirable use; for every Bashaw has generally a basket full of these Pigeons sent him from the grand Seraglio, and in case of any insurrection or other emergent occasion, he braces a letter under the wings of a pigeon, whereby its flight is not in the least incommoded, and immediately turns it loose, but for fear of their being shot or struck by a hawk, they generally dispatch five or six; so that by this means, dispatches are sent in a more safe and speedy method, than could possibly be otherwise contrived.

144.—N.B. If a Pigeon be not practised when young, the best of them will fly but very indifferently, and may very possibly be lost.

145.—Lithgow in his travels gives the following remarkable account: after having told us of pigeons, that in forty eight hours would carry a letter from Babylon to Aleppo, which is thirty days journey, he proceeds thus; "The city Ptolemais was besieged by the French and Venetian armies, and was ready to fall into their hands, when the soldiers beheld a pigeon flying over them to the city, who thereupon set up so sudden and so great a shout, that down fell the poor airy post with her letter, which being read, was found to contain, that the Sultan was coming towards them with an army sufficient to raise the siege, and would be with them in three days; the Christians having learnt this, sent away the Pigeon with another letter, to this effect; that they should see to their safety, for that the Sultan had

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143. (Girtin, p. 67.)—In the East, they formerly kept relays of these Pigeons in constant readiness to carry expresses to all parts of the country. When the governor of Dalmatia heard the news of the death of Orillo, he let fly a Pigeon under whose wing he had fastened a letter; this fled to Cairo, from whence a second was dispatched to another place, as was customary, so the death of Orilla was made known to all Egypt, in the space of a few hours! but the simple use of them was known in very early times: When Modena was besieged, Brutus, within the walls, kept an uninterrupted correspondence with Hirtius without, and this by the assistance of Pigeons, setting at nought every stratagem of the besieger, Anthony, to stop these winged couriers. In the times of the Crusades there were many instances of these birds being made useful in the service of war. Tasso relates one during the siege of Jerusalem; and Joinville another, during the crusade of St. Louis.

145 and 146. (Eaton.)—As touching the shout, &c., I believe that you believe as I do—that the account smells too much of Major Longbow. If you believe it you do believe it; if you give your assent to it, it is quite another thing. A man only believes that which he does not disbelieve; the moment a doubt crosses his mind he no longer believes. A man may give his assent to anything; but this does not prove he believes; it only proves that he is a weak-minded man, or that which is worse, a hypocrite; for instance, you or I may never have seen Napoleon the First; we never doubted his existence; but that the shout of men should cause a Pigeon to lose the power of its wings, I set down as a downright lie.

such other important affairs, as rendered it impossible that he should come to their relief. Upon the reception of this letter the city was immediately surrendered to the Christians; upon the third day, the Sultan arrived according to his promise, but perceiving how matters went, returned again with his army."

146.—That passage of making the Pigeon fall to the ground by the shout of the soldiers, seems a little too much to savour of Romish superstition; for it appears a little unphilosophical, to imagine that the air could be so far broke by a shout, as to render the strong pinions of so swift a bird useless.

147.—Ovid likewise, in his Book of Metamorphoses, tells us that Taurosthenes, by a Pigeon stained with purple, gave notice of his victory at the Olympic games, the very same day on which he gained it, to his father at Ægina.

148.—Willoughby also in his Ornithology, and with that I shall conclude the account of this bird, produces the example of the ancients in making use of Pigeons for the conveyance of letters; thus Hiritius and Brutus at the siege of Modena, by means of Pigeons held a mutual correspondence with each other.

147, 148. (Eaton.)—The Carrier, no doubt, derived its name from its great cunning, sagacity, its love for its native home, which it appears never to forget or forsake—the home where it was reared. Imagine a sweep had bred and reared one of the most undeniably best Carriers that ever was reared, and it had its liberty to fly about. It afterwards so happened that, for its elegance and properties, it was purchased to adorn our MostGracious Majesty's poultry house or pigeonary at Windsor, confined two years to breed from; its young, as a matter of course allowed to fly, would stop, being at home; but the parent bird, at the expiration of its two years' confinement—having been pampered with all the best food and seeds that could be procured for it—do you suppose it would stop? Many would suppose it would, being in such comfortable quarters. You may suppose it comfortable quarters; the Carrier, longing, by powerful instinct, for its first home, might consider it captivity. The keeper of the Pigeons, sensible he had got several of this bird's strain, some equally as good, if not better, that flew and stopped at home, and fancying the parent bird was losing flesh, becoming mopish, and out of condition, owing to having been so long pent up, determines to give it its liberty at all hazards, knowing where to find the bird at its original home. Do you suppose this Carrier would stop, after all the kindness, as some would call it? The Carrier did not consider it kindness; on the contrary, captivity. Certainly it would not stop after it was let out; it might plume its feathers; it would then mount the elements and look for its native home, which it would reach in about half-an-hour, for they are known to fly a mile a minute, as you may often see in *Bell's Life, The Field, Cottage Gardener, The Poultry Chronicle,* and other papers.

There are people in the world who suppose from hearing of a Carrier Pigeon carrying and bringing home a letter or message, that it will act the part of a postman; that you have only to write a letter or note, twist it round the leg, inform the bird where to take it to, or put on the direction, viz.:—

Fuzzamuzzy Aldiberontickosphofogo, Esq.,
1½, Straight Street, Crooked Lane,
Near Tooley Street,
In the Borough.
(Haste—Private.) S. E.

Carrier Pigeons cannot be made to play the part of a postman. They will not take a letter to your next door neighbour, although it will bring home a letter, message or note, neatly twisted and secured round its leg, from a distance of one hundred miles or more!

COLUMBA TABELLARIA MINOR. *The Horseman.*

149.—This Pigeon in shape and make very much resembles the Carrier, only it is smaller in all its properties, viz. Somewhat less in body, shorter necked, the protuberent flesh upon the beak smaller, as likewise that round the eye, so that there remains a larger space or distance between the wattle and the eye, in this Pigeon than in the Carrier. They are generally more inclined to be barrel headed, and their eye somewhat pinched.

150.—It is to this day a matter of dispute, whether this be an original Pigeon: or whether it be not a bastard strain, bred between a Carrier and a Tumbler, or a Carrier and a Powter, and so bred over again from a Carrier, and the oftener it is thus bred, the stouter the horseman becomes.

(Brent.)—The English Carriers and Horseman Pigeons are so inseparably connected, that in describing one I must also describe the other. Indeed, I believe the Horseman to be the primitive stock, and that the English Carrier is the effect of the high cultivation of the former, those points of excellence which the Fancier most highly prizes being more highly developed in the Carrier. As I consider the Horseman as the original, I will first draw attention to them. They appear to have come originally from Persia, and also to have been bred extensively in Turkey and Egypt, where they have been long used as mediums of communications. They are fine, noble birds, being considerably larger than the generality of Pigeons. Their beak is long and stout, and covered at its base with a great quantity of wattle, wrinkled, whitish-looking skin, or, in other words, an extreme developement of the nose; the eyes are also surrounded with a broad circle of the same appearance called the *sere*. The neck is long and rather bent, the feathers often opening a little in front of the bend, exposing a small streak of red skin. The chest is very broad and full, the shoulders wide; the bend of the wings stands rather out from the sides, the legs and feet very stout; the tail and pinion feathers are rather short for the size of the bird, the former being carried somewhat elevated.

(Brent.)—The English Carrier differs from this in the greater development of the fancy points on which Fanciers lay great stress, and according to their merits in this respect are they of proportionate value. The beak must be long, thick and straight; the wattle large, high, and leaning slightly forward. The old Fanciers admired it most when of a blackish tint; the *sere* round the eyes should be broad, even, and round, which is termed a rose-eye; if uneven it is called pinch-eyed, which is a great defect. The head is long, narrow, and flat on the top; the colour of the iris is of a bright gravelly red. The neck must be long, thin, and without bend; they should be broad across the back, but small in the waist. The pinion feathers of the wings, as also the tail, should be very long and not carried up, consequently, they are much more elegant-looking birds than the Horseman; in colour they are mostly black or dun,—the duns generally have the best heads.

150. (Eaton).—If it were a matter of dispute in the year 1735, (it is more so now, in the year 1858.) It is quite clear that none of us are able to recollect whether this be an orignal bird or not, nevertheless, if we have brains, as I said in a former part of this work, let us endeavour to exercise them. After reading Moore, and comparing Mayor and Girtin's Work to Moore's, they are both the same, only altering a few words, which is the same as regards the sense, or differently placing the paragraphs; now as none of us can recollect, and as it was a matter of dispute one hundred and twenty-three years ago, we have the same right to exercise our judgment (however little it may be) as they had in the year 1735, when the book was printed, and from which this subject under consideration is taken. I shall endeavour to tread in the footsteps of that humble and modest Fancier, who I style the pre-eminent of Fanciers—the late Mr. John Moore, who repeatedly in his work expressed his wish

that the work had been brought out by more able pens, and hoped it would provoke others with more skill and abilities to follow in the tract which he had only pointed out, to which I gave my hearty Amen. (Query.) Do not for a moment suppose that I consider myself equal to the task; but as a humble, unassuming Fancier, like MOORE, I tell you boldly and fearlessly, without evasion or equivocation, that the Horseman is an original bird. That is my opinion. I throw down the gauntlet to provoke others to take it up; some of you may say, that, although written in such humble language, you should give us the why and the wherefore it is your opinion; I will endeavour to do so. All the Authors state the Horseman is a hybrid, in shape and make very much resembles the Carrier, only it is smaller in all its properties, viz., less in body, shorter necked, the wattle on the beak smaller, as likewise that round the eye; there remains a larger space or distance between the wattle on the beak and the eye in this Pigeon than in the Carrier. They are more inclined to be barrel-headed, and their eye somewhat pinched. To sum up this account, although it comes the nearest to a Carrier than any other Pigeon, altogether less than any of its properties (save thickness of neck, broad head, and the want of elegance.) I put it to the experienced Carrier Fancier, whether this bird, taking all its properties into consideration, is a Carrier in miniature. Certainly not. How comes it to be short and thick-necked and broad-headed? There are Horseman of all manner of feathers, and pieds; but Carriers are chiefly blacks, duns, and blues. I have often asked Fanciers, how they distinguished between a Carrier and a Horseman? They have thought it too delicate a question to answer. I have, in conversation with some of the most experienced Fanciers, heard them say, if, in breeding from a pair of Horseman, they throw and breed an extraordinary bird, they call it a Carrier; if, on the contrary, they breed from an extraordinary pair of Carrier plain birds, then they are called Horseman; I believe this to be near the mark. What is there, then, in a name!

(EATON).—I know two Gentlemen, stout Bird Fanciers (this is the term generally made use of by the Fanciers of Carriers and Horseman); one gentleman said he had nothing but Carriers, the other said he had nothing but Horseman; I admired the Horseman of the one better than the Carrier of the other, which only proves "What there is in a name? It would appear contradictory if we come to the feather, for if Carriers breed Horseman and the Horseman Carriers, how comes it to pass that we have so few Carriers but are principally blacks and duns?—for we have Horseman of all colours. I am sensible we have Carriers also, but very few comparatively speaking. In Horseman the blue and pied are most noted to be genuine and good. Then how comes it to pass we have so few blue and blue-pied Carriers, unless the blacks and duns answer best to breed up to? It was so in 1735, and is now, the blacks and duns having been so bred together. If you were to breed from two blacks or two duns, or from a black and a dun, who would say what the colour of their young would be? Very likely a black and a dun in every nest, or contrary to the colour of the parent birds from which they are bred; yet being a black and dun simply, for ought I know, the blacks and duns have been bred together hundreds of years back as they are now, I have no doubt, if the blues had been brought up as the blacks and duns have been, we should have had as elegant for all properties, which so characterises the Carrier for that elegance and wonderful symmetry of shape beyond other Pigeons. Whereas, the Horseman appears a short, dumpy, thick-neck, broad-headed bird. How did it obtain that broad head? Never from the Dragon, Tumbler, or the Pouter, is my opinion; but that the Horseman is the original bird, and the Carrier is not. Do you suppose for a moment that the Carriers of the East are like the engraving of the Carrier that accompanies this Work? (see) It is my opinion that it is no more like it than the Antwerp Carrier is like it; but who knows what the spirited experienced English Fancier will bring the Antwerp Carrier to in the next fifty years. I have seen Dragons that appeared to come nearer in shape and symmetry to the Carrier than some Horseman (but with less wattle), appearing more like a Carrier in miniature. I stated it to be my opinion that the Horseman was the original bird, and not the Carrier, and I will endeavour to prove my assertion. Imagine to yourself an old and experienced Fancier, of forty years standing, possessing the acknowledged best strain of Carriers, to die, and all he possessed willed over to his nearest and only relation, a nephew, and among other things, this beautiful strain of Carriers comes into his possession: being grateful for what he has received, he is determined not to part with this strain of Carriers

knowing the immense pains, and the delight his uncle took in them (although a novice himself.) I will simply put the question to the experienced Carrier Fancier, How many years he will give me before this remarkably fine strain of Carriers degenerate into the original Horseman? You may put a question, and ask me whether they would degenerate more, by lowering from the Horseman to the Dragon?—to which I should certainly answer No; believing the Horseman to be the original bird, and would not sink below its nature. Again, to try to prove my assertion, I believe the Carrier bred up to the standard, was, and is bred up by the most experienced Fanciers, from observation and reflection, and a thorough knowledge of these birds; nevertheless, he has to exercise all he knows, by counteraction and art, assisted by nature, who sports and freaks at times, and produces a wonderful and extraordinary Carrier. Now, having this Carrier, and selecting the best Carrier from your aviary or loft, I simply put the question to experienced Carrier Fanciers, (it is useless to put it to any one else; you might as well put it to Aldgate pump), Can you depend upon their young being extraordinary Carrier birds, as they are called? Who, from their experience, would answer No! there being such a tendency in these high bred birds to degenerate and throw back; and this is the cause why a good Fancier would rather have the cast-offs of a good strain, than an apparent good bird that he knew nothing about. It frequently happens that Fanciers are very strong and well up with these birds, and would not take twenty guineas a pair for them, and have not parted with their best birds; and if you ask them how they are going along, or with what succes they have met during the breeding season, the answer is, "Very bad, and not bred a bird." The meaning is, not worthy to be mentioned, owing to the tendency there is to degenerate. It is equally as easy, if not more so, to breed the Carrier up from the Horseman, as to breed your short-faced Tumblers for the five properties, from the rough long-faced common flying Tumblers, having such a tendency to degenerate. Again, the same takes place with regard to the English Pouter, when bred up to the highest pitch, there being such a tendency to degenerate.

(Eaton.)—The Horseman has been a very useful bird among Fanciers (which no one can deny) has aided and assisted the Fancier in bringing to perfection more Pigeons than any other.—The English Pouter or Cropper, see paragraph 161; the Pouting Horseman, paragraph 182; and the Dragon, paragraph 156, and what I have been contending for, the Carrier, paragraph 124. The experienced Fancier would be able to discover the original bird, the Horseman; not the Horseman bred up to the highest possible pitch, from the selection of the two best Horseman in the aviary or loft, Nature aiding and assisting by giving a little one in; and an accidental hit would produce an extraordinary bird, then it would be called a Carrier, although the same bird bred from Horseman; neither the hybrid Dragon, first, second, or third breed, for the oftener they are bred over to the Horseman the stouter they become; but there appears something so particular in the character of the original Horseman, its broad head, its short thick neck, and its dumpiness, as compared to the Carrier. If we were at a Horseman or Carrier show—please yourself "with which name"—for, as I said elsewhere, What is there in a name?—mark the remarks you would hear; it is possible some would say, I do not know when I have seen a better show of stout birds, take them all for all. You would find a difference of opinion, some saying I should choose that black cock if it were a little narrower in the head, or more snake-headed, with a little hollow or dent in the middle, for we are inclined to think it is rather barrel-headed; others would say, give me the dun hen, provided it was longer and thinner in the neck, not so short and thick, but more swan-necked; others might say, that is the bird for me, provided it possessed more carriage, and was not so spindle-beaked, which proves the difficulty of breeding out the properties of the original marked Horseman; and it is truly astonishing to think what beautiful birds they are, when you come to consider with what difficulties the Fancier is beset, in producing the Carrier with all its elegancies, and maintaining the five properties, as laid down for the standard by the Gentlemen of the Carrier Fancy, viz.,—beak, wattle, head, eye, shape, all combined in a single bird, and coming from the original bird, the Horseman.

(Eaton).—Imagine to yourself two Fanciers, one styling himself a Horseman Fancier, and the other styling himself a Carrier Fancier, having contended for a long time as to whether the Horseman or the Carrier is the original bird—both arguing all they know as regards these birds, which is not a little, being two good Fanciers—but they

151.—The only thing that seems inclinable to favour the opinion, that they are original, is a strain of this kind brought over from Scanderoon which will fly very great lengths and very swift; but still the answer

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cannot agree at this meeting, and take leave of each other, wishing each other luck, &c. One thinks a little country air, and being a disciple of Old Isaac, desirous of seeing how his brother Bobs are going along, betakes himself to Dagenham Reach, and to his surprise meets his brother Fancier and Bob, whom he had only parted with in the morning—the one went by Train, the other by Coach. They expressed their surprise and exclaimed, like Darby and Joan, who had agreed to enjoy themselves, for once, with a Duck and Green Peas. Hot! and on table; ready to begin. Knock at door! A cousin, wife. and four children drop in, and the exclammation is, "Who'd have thought of seeing you!" Neither being desirous of renewing the argument on Carriers or Horseman, but are lost in wonder and astonishment at the beauty of the scenery, and exclaim, "How delightful is the scene of Rural Nature to the Philosophic eye and contemplative mind! and agree to walk together to witness what sport had attended their brother trollers; the first they enquired of had taken two jack, the second had taken two pike, and another, Brother Bob, had taken two fish—a term well understood by anglers. Now, here are jack, pike, and fish taken. What is the difference? For argument sake, and to lay a trap for you I will say there is none, and that all three are the same fish. Do not be too cunning, and tell me that a pike is a year older than a jack, otherwise I shall put the question, and ask you, Are your stout birds, for the first two or three years, Horseman, and as they grow old and become heavily wattled, then they turn into Carriers, although the same bird; which only proves that the Horseman is the original bird, and the Carrier by the art of man.

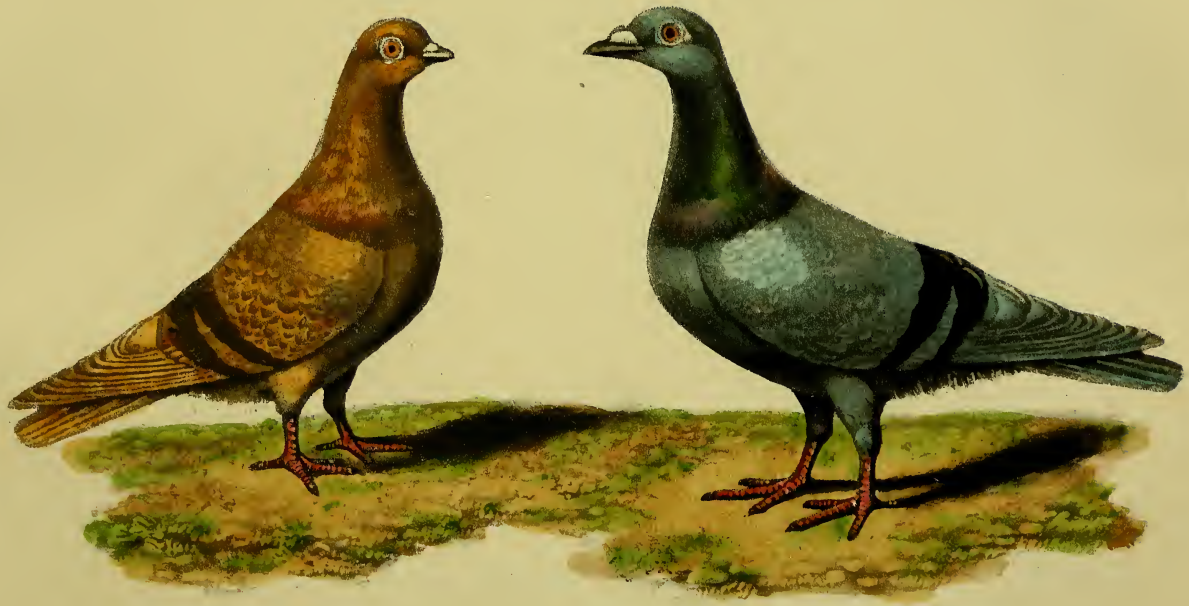
(Eaton.)—In the same paragraph (150), on the matter in dispute I find "Or" twice, and in Paragraph 151, one "May be." This is not very definite to argue upon; therefore, to render it more clear, and define it to you, I had better throw in the words, "Perhaps, it is possible, but rather improbable;" I have thrown some light upon these words "or" and "may be." As we are upon the subject of wonderful Flying Birds, there are people in the world who say pigs "may" fly; others say they are "very unlikely birds." It is the last of my thoughts to dwell upon this subject. I believe I never should, had Mayor and Girtin said a little upon it. Instead of copying Moore only, word for word, I could not in my conscience let this, the most useful bird we have in the whole Fancy (the Horseman) pass unnoticed; considering that it has contributed in bringing to perfection the English Pouter, the Pouting Horseman, the Dragon, and also the Carrier itself. I shall require something more in argument from those who differ from me, than mere "'Tisn't, 'Tisn't.". I shall, therefore, fall in with the views of Moore, the pre-eminent, and not trespass upon your valuable time, to determine such controversies as these.

(Brent.)—The Horseman are of various colours, black, white, blue, and pieds predominating.

(Brent.)—Having described the two extremes—Carriers and Horseman—it will show their differences; but Pigeons are to be met with of all the various intermediate grades. If kept in health by exercise and judicious feeding, they are good breeders; if not, they become idle and inferior nurses. If kept for flying, they must be trained young and kept in constant practice, or the best will prove but indifferent homing birds, though from their great value as fancy birds, they are but little flown, and consequently soon become, fat, heavy, and unfit to fly.

(Brent.)—I have had the large White Horseman, or, as they are called in France, the Swan-necked Egyptians, that could scarcely rise eight feet from the ground; but the young ones, while in training, flew with astonishing rapidity, and went an end well.

(Brent.)—They would also outstrip my Antwerps in homing eight or ten miles. though they appeared to have great difficulty in first starting off, seeming almost unable to rise till they got in full swing, when they went along in fine style, having much the appearance of wild ducks while flying in the air.



Antwerp. *Drag-on.*

readily occurs, that they may be bred originally the same way at Scanderoon and so transmitted us, however non nostrum est inter vos tantas componere Lites, that is, we shan't take upon us to determine such controversies as these.

152.—There are of this kind, of all manner of feathers; but the blue and blue pieds are most noted to be genuine and good, and if flown are very good breeders.

153.—These are one of the sorts of Pigeons that are chiefly made use of in England, for the carriage of letters, or flying of wagers; because those that are possessed of the true original Carriers, which are at present very scarce here, pay too dear, and have too great a value for them, to risk their being lost upon every trifling wager.

154.—These pigeons when regularly flown, twice on a day, that is, turned out alone and put upon wing without any others, will fly very large circumferences, so that after they have made a tour or two round your own house, they will fly four or five miles out at length and so maintain the circuit for an hour or two: this the Fanciers call going an end, and is what Daniel Moggs, who was one of the older Fanciers, meant, when he jocularly used to bid his pigeons maintain their length.

155.—This practice is of admirable service to them, when they come to be trained for the homing part.

COLUMBA TABELLARIA MINIMA. *The Dragoon.*

156.—This Pigeon is absolutely and without dispute a bastard strain, being bred originally from a Horseman to a Tumbler, and by matching their breed often to the Horseman, they will obtain a tolerable degree of stoutness.

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156. (Eaton.)—The Dragon, I think, is one of the most difficult Pigeons to determine, or, more properly speaking, where to draw the line; how far it may approach the Horseman and go no further. Believing Mr. Moore's account, being bred originally from a Horseman to a Tumbler, and by matching their breed often to the Horseman, they will obtain a tolerable degree of stoutness, to which I answer, yes, too stout for a Dragon and infinitely nearer a Horseman than a Dragon. If a Fancier pointed out such a bird to me, asked me what I called it, unquestionably I should say, a Horseman. I remember, at one of the Poultry Shows in London, a pair of Pigeons were entered as a pair of Dragons, I considered them the best pair of Carriers in the show; they were entered in the catalogue price three guineas, I went to claim them at the price, but was informed they had already been claimed; not that I would give three guineas for a pair of Dragons, yet I would have given three guineas for the pair of Carriers I am writing of. This may have arose from two things, the party desirous of obtaining a first prize, and fearing he should not obtain the prize by entering as Carriers, to make sure of it, entered them as Dragons, and placed the low price of three guineas not to be suspected. Or he might be a novice in the Fancy, the birds did fall into his hands somehow or other, he did not know a good bird when he saw it, or even knew what it was, whether Carrier, Horseman, or Dragon. Another case, the eminent Fancier, the late John T. Sawyer, Esq., at one of the London shows, entered six pens of the most beautiful dun colored Dragons. My memory does not serve me, that he entered them for competition for the prizes, I believe he did not, I think he was too good a judge, and sensible judges, provided they were up to their work, would never

157.—This Pigeon is a very good breeder, (*) and as they are somewhat less than a Horseman, are reckoned lighter and more expeditious in their flight, for ten or twenty miles, but the Horseman if good, will generally out-do them at a greater length; they ought to be flown and trained like the foregoing.

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award them as Dragons. Their elegance of shape, the length of feather, length and thinness of neck, narrowness of head, their combined beauty of properties and style, I considered put the Carriers into the shade. Whether he entered them for competition or not, this much I do know, they were not awarded a prize, being too much for a Dragon. With regard to the first pair I mentioned, they did not take a prize for Dragons, being two good, and in the second place, were not awarded a first, second, or third prize for Carriers, being disqualified through being wrongly entered. I have met some good Fanciers at the shows, while looking at the class Dragons, I made the simple remark to some of the exhibitors of Dragons, "it's no go," they have laughed heartily, and said, "there was no harm in trying it on." I remember meeting a celebrated Fancier of Warwickshire, who had entered a beautiful pair of birds in class Dragons, their only fault being too good, although he had taken several prizes on Pigeons, he said if one thing pleased him more than another, was the detection by the judges in drawing the line where the Dragon should stop, that the judges were up to the mark, viz.—up to their work. I believe in some cases the line has scarely been drawn up to the mark for fear of going over the line, and that Dragons have been awarded the prize rather below the line for fear of going over the line, which proves my remarks at the commencement, the difficulty where to draw the line or where, as touching the Dragon, it should stop. Gentlemen may enter rather sheary Carriers in the Dragon class, it does not follow, simply because they have entered them as such, the judges will award them a prize, on the contrary, they will disqualify them, it was so at the Crystal Palace Show, 1858. It sometimes happens the cheat is not detected. I do not agree with a writer to the *Cottage Gardener*, that there ought not to be a prize awarded to Dragons, he observes, "they are nothing more or less than bad Carriers."

* 157. (Mayor, p. 89.)—And good nurses, and are chiefly kept as feeders for raising of Pouters, Leghorn Runts, &c.

(Mayor, p. 92.)—The following may be depended upon as a fact, notwithstanding the appearance of incredibility, as several gentlemen now living can affirm the same, if requisite—a gentleman of my acquaintance having a small wager depending, sent a Dragon by the Stage Coach to his friend at St. Edmond's Bury, together with a note, desiring the Pigeon, two days after his arrival there, might be thrown up precisely when the town clock struck nine, in the morning, which was accordingly executed; and the Pigeon arrived in London, and flew to the sign of the Bull's Head Inn in Bishopsgate Street, into the loft, and was there shewn at half an hour past eleven o'clock the same morning on which he had been thrown up at St. Edmond's Bury, having flown seventy-two miles in two hours and a half. The wager was confirmed by a letter sent by the next post from a person at St. Edmond's Bury. I could relate several more exploits of this nature performed by Dragons, particularly of their being thrown up and returning by moon-light, &c., but the above may be thought sufficient.

157. (Eaton.)—A gentleman informed me once, he had a pair of Dragons, that bred him eleven pair of young ones during twelve months. Many young birds will breed all the year round, provided they have warm places, good nests made for them, and, above all, plenty of first-rate good nourishing food. I agree and believe with Mr. Moore, that the Dragon being lighter than the Horseman, are more expeditious in their flight for ten or twenty miles. Mayor, p. 89, truly observes they are good nurses, as feeders for Pout-ers, Leghorn Runts, besides other birds; but they are too strong or coarse as feeders for short-faced birds.

(Eaton.)—I believe there are many gentlemen living in the country (and not associating with Fanciers), who keep Pigeons, that fancy they have the finest strain of Carriers in the World; if flown, no doubt very clean, their feathers close and tight, the colours silver, yellow, or blue, with the black bar across the flight; I acknowledge all

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA BATAVIÆ.

The Dutch Cropper.

158.—This Pigeon seems to be originally Dutch, being naturally thick and its name is derived from a large bag, or crop of wind, which they carry under their beak, and can at pleasure either raise or depress; they are thick bodied and short, their legs are likewise thick, short, and feathered down to their feet; their crop is large but always hang low, the feathers on their thighs hang loose, whereby they are said to be flag-thighed, their legs stand wide, and they seldom play upright, they are gravel-eyed, and are generally very bad feeders, therefore as soon as they have fed off their soft meat it is proper to put their young ones under a pair of small Runts, Dragoons, or Powting-horsemen, which may be kept as nurses for the purpose.

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looking very beautiful as touching Dragons. Should it so happen that this fine old English gentleman, one of the olden times, gave an invite to one of his old friends, to come and spend a few days with him in the country, (but fortunately, or unfortunately, he is a good Carrier Fancier), after hearing this fine old English gentleman (in his way) describing the perfections or imperfections of his Carriers, as he pleased to call them, for want of knowing better. I ask you, as wise men, would it not be cruel if this Carrier Fancier, on a visit or spunging excursion, should endeavour to lighten the darkness of this fine old English gentleman, one of the very olden times; for instance, in the first place it would be too late in his day to make a good Carrier Fancier of him, and in the second place, it is possible there was no one in the locality to instruct him; it therefore appears to me, taking all the circumstances into consideration, to let this fine old English gentleman enjoy his own opinion. Why do authors on Pigeons spell the Dragon with two "o's," making the word Dragoon, a kind of soldier, &c., "Walker." In society we never call it the Dragoon, but the Dragon—Drag-un, a winged serpent. "Walker," from which it derives its name. Also the Pout-er is spelt thus, Powter, The name is derived from the word to pout, by thrusting out, "Walker." I hope no author who follows me, will be guilty of doing it. It may be excusable in me in Mr. MOORE's Work, as I am desirous it should be published letter for letter. I did not exactly agree with MOORE on the last subject—the Horseman—but I am determined to agree with him on the Dragon, believing what he states to be correct.

157. (BRENT.)—The Dragon Pigeons may be considered as an inferior variety of Carrier or Horseman, from which they were most probably a cross. They have the same properties as the Carrier, but not so fully developed; they are smaller, more active, and swifter for short journeys. They are of various colours, but the blues are most esteemed. They are wild birds, but excellent breeders and nurses; so much are they esteemed on this account, that they are frequently kept as nurses for the larger sorts of fancy Pigeons, and as they are large and fleshy, their young are excellent for the table. Shear Dragon is the name for those of this variety that have long straight beaks and heads, without much wattle.

(BRENT.)—Dragons were the variety mostly used for flying before the introduction of the Antwerp; many persons still prefer them, and we have many extraordinary accounts on record of their performances. All these varieties have large soft beaks while young; the wattle grows, and continues to increase for a year or two.

157. (BOYS.)—Thirty-six years ago when my collection of Dragons (about thirty) every morning brought me from London, in slips, the leading article of the Morning Post newspaper tied round the leg.

(EATON.)—From London to Margate, seventy-two miles; a decent fly, and proves Dragons can do work.

158. (MAYOR, p. 92)—But now the Gentlemen Fanciers in England pay very little

159.—There are all sorts of feathers in this pigeon, and the Dutch in breeding it take a very great care; for as soon as they have fed off their soft meat, they put their young ones under others to nurse, and then separate their old ones, placing them in different coops, and feeding them high with hemp or rape seed for a month, then turning them together; and by being very hearty and salacious, they breed pigeons with very good properties; from whence we may observe, that would mankind be alike abstemious, their progeny might be more compleat both in body and mind.

160.—These are the Pigeons that are most apt to gorge, if not kept constantly supplied with meat and water.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA ANGLICANA.

The English Powter.

161.—This Pigeon, which was first bred in England, and is therefore called the English Powter, is originally a mixed breed between a Horse-

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regard to this Pigeon, since they have made it subservient to their purpose, viz. by raising from them and others the Pouter.

158. (Eaton.)—The Dutch Cropper.—There does not appear any beauty in the Dutch Cropper that we should attempt to breed a bird like it; at the same time we must not forget our gratitude to the Dutch Fanciers, in enabling us to obtain this bird, the Dutch Cropper, and crossing it with the Horseman or Carrier have produced the majestic, fine-shaped, elegant English Pout-er. We are not only indebted to the Dutch for the Dutch Cropper, but also for several of the Toy Pigeons, also to other nations that have devoted great care and attention to other Pigeons.

158. (Brent)—The Dutch Pouter is also a merry, active bird, playing erect, continually clapping his wings and jumping at his mate. His legs are thin, and frequently bare of feathers, or only tuffed on the toes; his colour is various, his crop good, but he is not much prized in this country, though the English Pouter is thought to be descended from him, with a slight admixture of Horseman blood.

(Brent.)—The old German Pouters are very large Pigeons, and scarce, even in their native country, measuring twenty-two inches in length, from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail, and three feet six inches, from point to point of the expanded wings, their tail and pinion-feathers being very long; the beak is stout and rather short; the legs stout and short, and feet featherless; the crops are large and well made, but from the shortness of their legs they cannot carry themselves erect. They are sometimes turn-crowned; in colour they are marked like a bald-headed Tumbler, though occasionally quite white. They are not good breeders, on account of their great size; they often break their eggs, or trample their young to death, consequently they require raising under other nurses. There are many other varieties of Pouters (Kropftauben) in Germany; one other that I must mention is a moderate-sized, thick-set bird, with turned crown, feather-footed, and half-erect carriage; the crop is not quite so globular as in some others, and their plumage blue and white. But their peculiarity consists in their manner of flying; rising a considerable height in the air, with distended crop, they allow themselves to fall or descend almost to the ground, again rising and performing the same feat repeatedly.

161. (Eaton.)—The English Pouter is so infinitely superior for elegance and style, compared to the Dutch Cropper, the Parisian Pouter, the Uploper, or the Pouting Horseman, I should scarce think any good Fancier would attempt to breed an inferior bird when he has the opportunity to breed the superior bird, unless for a particular purpose. The late Sir John Sebright was an acknowledged good Fancier; after his death, I was at the sale of his Bantams and Pigeons; I was surprised, on looking at

Pouter

man and a Cropper, experience teaches us, it will add a wonderful beauty to this bird, and raise in it the five following properties.

1. Length of Body.
2. Length of Legs.
3. Neatness of Crop.
4. Slenderness of Girt.
5. Beauty in Feather.

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his Pouters, how it was possible he could have reduced the English Pouters down to such little Lilliputians, or multum in parvo Pouter, possessing, in an elegant degree, all the properties of the English Pouter. I confess I should have been more pleased to have seen these Pouters with all their beautiful properties, fine large English Pouters. Sir John no doubt reduced them all he possibly could, as he did the bantams, preserving all their elegant properties.

(EATON.)—It does not follow, simply because Mr. MOORE, in giving the five properties of the English Pouter, taking length of body—he considered length of body the grandest property in an English Pouter, although he wisely takes beauty in feather last. I think Mr. MOORE too good a Fancier to consider their best properties as he has simply arranged them. I will inform you what I think the best properties of the English Pouter, and arrange them in a manner which I believe will meet the approbation of the acknowledged best English Pouter Fanciers :—

1st, Length of Leg (or Limb as it is called).
2nd, Slenderness of Girt or Waist.
3rd, Length of Body, or equally as proper Length of Feather.
4th, Neatness of Crop.
5th and last, Beauty in Feather, provided you can obtain it.

1st, Length of Leg or Limb.—Now to the law and to the testimony to prove my assertion. Refer to paragraph 202. The Spanish Runt is the longest bodied of all Pigeons, 23 inches in length from the apex of the beak to the extremity of the tail ; they are thick and short-legged, and don't walk erect. Now, if it were possible to put on this bird the most beautiful round and globular crop that ever was seen,—answer me two questions,—1st. Would the bird, for elegance, look like the English Pouter? 2nd, What name would you call it ? To the first question you would answer it did not look like the English Pouter, standing on legs six inches in length, and thick in girt ; the second question you would be bothered to answer. After some consideration, you would say, the best name to give it would be a Spanish Runt Pouter. Now take an English Pouter, twenty inches in feather (although I never saw one so long), 7¼ inches in leg or limb, and compare these birds together, which proves my assertion that length of leg is the first and best property of a Pouter.

(EATON.)—2nd. Property in a Pouter I considered the slenderness of its girt or smallness of waist, the greater the contrast gives beautiful shape and elegance to the whole bird, the want of this property robs the English Pouter of half its beauty, and it appears like a large ill-shaped thick girted runt. When a Pouter has a slender girt he has other good properties about him, viz.—that of standing well on his legs, good crop, at all events shewing it to greater advantage owing to the contrast.

(EATON.)—3rd. Property of a Pouter, length of body as it is called, although I think it would be as well if the Fanciers had called it length of feather, being from the apex of the beak to the end of the tail, although Mr. MOORE says, he had seen one that measured nearly twenty inches, I never, to my knowledge, saw one that was over nineteen and a half inches, that is a great length, even eighteen inches is a good length, the best Pouter I ever saw, taking it "all for all," on the five properties ; it had legs or limbs to stand on, it had the most beautiful large round globular crap or crop I ever saw, a small waist or girt, which beautifully shewed the contrast. I acknowledge it might have been better in feather, or that an artist can put the feathers in five minutes which the Fancier cannot breed in twenty years. In a large majestic Pouter (feather in a small insignificant pouting Horseman I am not taking into consideration, here it would be out of place) and yet this English Pouter I am writing off, appeared like a giant

162.—1. As to the length of body, the longer they are from the Apex of the beak, to the end of the tail, the more the Pigeon is esteemed: I have seen one that measured this way near twenty inches, although seventeen or eighteen is reckoned a very good length. (*)

163.—2. The length of the leg, is the next thing to be examined in a Powter, *i.e.* from the upper joint of the thigh (†) in sight, to the end of the toe nail; (‡) and in this property some pigeons have been very considerable, wanting a mere trifle of seven inches, yet the bird that produces six and a half or three quarters must be allowed to be a very good one. (§)

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compared among other Pouters, was not over eighteen inches in length or feather. You may ask how it came to pass that a bird, comparatively short as touching length of body or feather, could show so conspicuous among other Pouters, simply because it possessed the three grandest properties of the Pouter; first, length of leg or limb; second, by smallness of girt or waist; thirdly, a large beautiful round or globular crap or crop.

(EATON.)—4th Property crap or crop. Mr. MOORE beautifully defines the crap or crop; MAYOR or GIBTIN do not mention it. I cannot add or take from without injuring Mr. MOORE'S remarks, while I have been attempting to write on the crap or crop, finding I cannot. The word here is perfectly correct, I think it would sound better if Gentlemen Fanciers would make use of the word Pouters, instead of the words Croppers or Crappers; I presume the words are so deeply rooted among Fanciers, that it will be impossible to eradicate them.

(EATON.)—5th and last Property in a Pouter, feather. I am aware some inexperienced Fanciers would make, just as the maggot bites with them, sometimes ten at other times fifteen properties, the standard laid down 123 years ago is the same now, five properties, and never can be improved. Read MOORE, paragraphs 166 to 174, on feather, chap, chop, bib, pinion, clean white thighs, and flight feathers, after all only one property, feather.

* 162. (MAYOR, p. 94.)—It should have a hollow back, running off taper from the shoulders, to form a fine shape, (for if it rises on the back it is called hog-backed,) and it should be small in the girt. Great caution should be observed in measuring their length of body, lest the head and tail should be pulled off, which (if I am rightly informed) was once the case, and thereby a fine bird sacrificed.

† 163. MAYOR, p. 94, states with regard to length of leg, and in this property some of them want a mere trifle of seven inches and a quarter.

‡ 163. (EATON.)—It requires truth and honesty in measuring, besides being rather difficult; it requires two to measure, if it is accurately done, and is done in the following way:—Let one hold the leg out straight; place the blade of a penknife or small wedge in the upper joint of the thigh, the other taking the length from what is placed in the joint; let the rule touch, and continue to the end of the longest toe-nail; which does not appear to be altogether fair, there being no limits to the length of toe-nail. If two gentlemen showed two birds for length of leg, and, fairly speaking, the length of leg was equal; yet if one in the toe-nail ran out a quarter, or half-an-inch more than the other, by the standard laid down it counts as length of leg, although the bird would not stand higher for it. The Pouter Fanciers reason and say, it has as much right to count as the running out or length of beak in the Horseman or Carrier. I acknowledge this to be fair argument, and leave it to the Pouter and Carrier Fanciers to decide. I think it right to inform you, I measure only to the end of the quick, and all over consider horn: the same remarks are applicable to short-faced Tumblers. Mr. MOORE, in the preceding Paragraph, 162, as touching length of body, states, in his day, he had seen one nearly twenty inches, and in Paragraph 163, wanting a mere trifle of seven inches; and MAYOR, p. 94, states the leg seven inches and a quarter; it therefore appears the leg is full one-third of the length of the body of the bird.

§ 163. (MAYOR, p. 95.)—Their thighs and legs should be stout and thick, and well covered with smooth white feathers, not thin wire legs and naked, as formerly.

164.—3. The next property to be considered is the crop, which ought to be large and round especially towards the beak, filling behind the neck, so as to cover the shoulders and tie neatly off at the shoulders, and form a perfect globe.

165.—4. The smaller the girt the better, because by this means a contrast of beautiful shape is given to the whole bird.

166.—5. The last thing that is generally allowed as a property in a Powter is the Feather, and indeed its plumage affords a very great variety.

167.—The Pieds are most universally esteemed, and under these may be ranked, the Blue-pied, (*) the Black-pied, the Red-pied, and the Yellow-pied. Each of which advance in their worth according as they answer best the foregoing properties; for instance, if the Blue-pied and Black-pied are equal in the measure of the other properties: the Black-pied will be reckoned the best Pigeon, on the account of the feather, and the Yellow-pied if equal, better than any.

168.—Before we leave this head of feathers, we must take notice how a Powter ought to be pied: and in the first place, the chop ought to be white, girt round with a shining green, intermixed with the colour with which he is pied. By the chop, is meant, the front part of the crop, and this white ought by no means to go behind the neck, for then it is said to be ring-headed.

169.—2. He ought to have a bib or round patch, of the same colour with which he is pied, coming down from under his chop, and falling upon the chap, which makes it the shape of a half-moon; but if this bib be wanting he is said to be swallow-throated.

170.—3. His head, neck, and back ought to be of one uniform colour, and the tail the same, (†) and if the Pigeon be Blue-pied he ought to have

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(165. Eaton.)—I cannot help thinking the Gentlemen of the Pouter Fancy have lost ground, as touching the girt of the Pouter. I acknowledge they have bred some tremendous large birds; unfortunately they have bred them to weigh too much, which is the property of the Leghorn and Spanish Runt. A Pouter ought, in hand, to handle like a Tumbler, not requiring both hands, or, as the old Fanciers call it, draw it through the ring of your finger, comparatively speaking. Breeding for large birds, instead of symmetry, shape, style and elegance, some have run from one extreme to the other. Formerly, the legs of the Pouter were thin, wiry and featherless; I have seen some legs so stout they reminded me of mill-posts; the feathers on the legs rushed out to such an extent, (instead of appearing like down, snow, or being iced,) balks the bird if it attempts to play, not having the freedom of its legs. I would as soon have somewhat thin legs and naked, as to have their legs like mill-posts—rushed and sprouted, preventing the bird walking. There is no accounting for taste when the breeder says he greatly admires it, the smallness of girt gives such smartness to the bird.

* 167. (Mayor, p. 95.)—The Blue Pied Pouter should be the best sky blue. Or, Powder Blue, as it is termed by the Gentlemen in the Fancy.—J. M. Eaton.

† 170. (Eaton.)—His head, neck, back, and tail, ought to be one uniform colour. Mayor and Girtin have the same words as Moore; neither of the three mention—with the exception of the Yellow and Red Pieds, then their tails should be white. It

two bars or streaks of black across the lower part of both wings; but if these happen to be of a brown colour, he is said to be kite-barred, which is not so valuable.

171.—4. The shoulder or pinion of the wing ought to be mottled with white, lying round in the shape of a rose; this is called a rose-pinion, and is reckoned the best, though but very few arise to be compleat in this property; but if the pinion runs with a large patch of white to the outer edge of the wing, he is said to be lawn-sleeved. (*)

172.—5. His thighs ought to be clean white, though sometimes the joints of the knees will be edged round with another colour, but let it fall here, or on any other part of the thigh, he is foul thighed. (†)

173.—6. The nine flight feathers of the wing ought to be white, otherwise he is said to be foul flighted, and if only the external feather of the wing be of the colour of the body, it is called sword flighted or sworded. (‡)

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was an oversight, no doubt, and perplexed many a young Fancier, as it did me a few years ago. Looking at Pouters one night with tails, same as head, neck, and back, and another time at yellows and reds with white tails: time and experience improved my eye and matured my judgment.

* 171. (Girtin, p. 50.)—The reader is desired to take notice that lawn-sleeved, kite-barred, &c., and such like terms, which frequently occur in describing these birds, are Fancy terms, and made use of by Gentlemen of the Fancy only.

† 172. (Girtin, p. 51.)—Their legs are covered with white, soft, downy feathers.

‡ 173. (Eaton.)—I know a Gentleman in the Fancy, one of the best tempered men that I ever knew; it would take a great deal to put his pipe out; if in society, speaking of the properties of the English Pouter as they ought to be,—First, length of leg; second, girt; third, length of body; fourth, crop; fifth and last, beauty in feather; if he heard a party finding fault with an English Pouter, or Pouters, possessing the four first properties in an eminent degree; it was more than flesh and blood could stand, and the only thing I ever saw that ruffled his temper; he enjoyed his opinion of the man—I cannot call him a Fancier. Feather will be the last property you have to bother yourself with, considering what you have to encounter in the first four properties. There are people in the world that say "a good horse cannot be a bad colour," which equally applies to the English Pouter; for instance, if it was possible for you, at your next show, to take a bird I have been describing, possessing the first four properties out of the five in an eminent degree, although the most despicable colour in the feather (mealy), you might inform me how much handsomer it would have been if it had been a yellow-pied. You may keep your information to yourself, I already know it; produce and show the mealy bird I have described: you will find you are offered many guineas for it.

(Mayor, p. 63.)—The above and many other inconveniences, too tedious to mention, attending the Pouter, and no trouble at all (comparatively speaking) attending the other, easily accounts for the preference given to the Almond Tumbler.

(Mayor, p. 97.)—When the Pouters are designed to be shown, they should be previously prepared for that purpose, by keeping them from food five or six hours before the time of showing them, otherwise they cannot so conveniently swell or get their crop up properly, to appear to advantage; and particular care must be afterwards taken to prevent the dangerous and disagreeable inconvenience of gorging themselves, for at that time they are most apt to do it, from having been kept so long empty.

(Mayor, p. 97.)—These Pigeons appear very noble on the outside of a house, but the better sort are never suffered to fly.

(Moore, p. 97.)—There are many who have not judgment sufficient to discover the beauties and properties of the Pouters—that condemn it on account of the crop, which they say seems an incumbrance to the bird, and appears unnatural.

(Mayor, p. 100.)—The Fanciers of these birds, by dint of application, indefatigable industry, and great expense, have certainly bred them to a great degree towards perfection, insomuch that eighteen pairs and a half of them were sold by public auction for ninety-two pounds nine shillings and sixpence, as appears by a paragraph in the Daily Advertiser of Thursday, January 1st, and the day following in the Gazetteer, and London Daily Advertiser of Friday, January 2nd, 1761, which, for the greater satisfaction of the reader I shall here transcribe :—"On Monday evening last, at the sale of Pouting Pigeons, at Mr. Hay's, the French Horn, in Beach Lane, consisting of eightee pairs and a half of Pigeons, they were sold as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
(Mayor, p. 101.)	Lot 1.	One pair	2	12	6
	,, 2.	Ditto	2	7	0
	,, 3.	Ditto	2	0	0
	,, 4.	Ditto	1	17	0
	,, 5.	Ditto	2	12	6
	,, 6.	Ditto	3	5	0
	,, 7.	Ditto	3	13	6
	,, 8.	Ditto	4	7	0
	,, 9.	Ditto	4	6	0
	,, 10.	Ditto	3	10	0
	,, 11.	Ditto	3	16	0
	,, 12.	Ditto	5	2	0
	,, 13.	Ditto	4	1	0
	,, 14.	Ditto	8	0	0
	,, 15.	Ditto	13	6	0
	,, 16.	Ditto	16	16	0
	,, 17.	Ditto	4	10	0
	,, 18.	A Hen only	5	5	0
	', 19.	One pair	1	3	0
		Total	£92	9	6

(Mayor, p. 102.)—He says, "As I was present at the above sale, so I had an opportunity of examining the birds, some of which were very indifferent ones, and some of them very capital ones indeed—lots 14, 15, 16, and 18; to my knowledge, two pairs of which were afterwards sold for thirty-six Guineas by private contract.

(Mayor, in continuation.)—The Almond Tumblers (at the time these Pigeons were sold) were not arrived at one half of the perfection that they are at this time, and it is the opinion of many, that were the same number of Almond Tumblers to be sold now, they would bear a price equal, if not superior to the above.

(Eaton.)—Mayor, 102. I never knew two pair of Pigeons sold at the same time for 36 guineas, although I knew a hen Baldhead sold for £25. I have witnessed 20 guineas refused for two pair of young Carriers, and know a Gentleman Fancier who gave £30 for three pair of Tumblers. Being at a show, 20 guineas was refused for a pair of yellow-pied Pout-ers. A gentleman set me on to buy them for him. Next morning I waited on the Fancier to whom they belonged, and said, laying all joking aside, what was the lowest he would take for the pair of yellow Pieds. He said he had over and over again refused 10 guineas for the cock ; if the cock was worth 10 guineas, the hen was worth 12 guineas. He would not take less than 22 guineas for the pair. Last year a spirited and excellent Fancier of Pigeons offered me 10 guineas each for an Almond cock, a Pout-er cock, and a Carrier cock. I waited upon the Almond, Pout-er, and Carrier Fanciers (I acknowledge it was in the breeding season), if they would show me the best birds they would part with. It was useless showing me birds they would not part with. I could not obtain an Almond cock I could in my conscience send for 10 guineas. I was under the necessity of sending one of my own, and charging £7 10s.

The gentleman wrote me he was satisfied. You may ask why I did not charge 10 guineas for it? Simply because I did not consider it worth, and, in the second place, I knew he was as good or better judge of a Pigeon than myself. With regard to the Pout-er cock, I only knew of one I considered worth 10 guineas. I waited upon the Fancier, the owner of the bird, and asked him the lowest he would take for it. He hummed and ah'd, and said he did not know what he would take for it, that it would follow the family about the house like a house-dog. I knew a gentleman who had offered him 10 guineas for the bird. I could not by any possibility get him to name a price. He said he thought it should die in the family. It certainly was a splendid bird, the best I ever saw. I believe the bird belonged to, and was bred by, his daughter, who was equally as good or better Fancier than her father; so I had to give it up. With regard to the Carriers, I could not obtain one I could send out for 10 guineas, not considering it good enough for the money, therefore gave it up. Some months after, being at a celebrated show, I was struck by a wonderful Carrier in a pen among other Carriers. The thought struck me that bird would do. I ascertained it belonged to a gentleman I knew very well, and with whom I could take liberties. I said to him if I should put that Carrier into my pocket, what is the very very lowest I shall have to give you for it, not to open your mouth too wide, but to draw it mild? placed his hands on my two shoulders, and said, "Mr. EATON, to draw it mild with you, the very very lowest I can take is £16." I also gave that up, though I considered it worth all the money, for had I put £50 in my pocket, and gone in search for its equal, I believe I could not have obtained it. The simple cause of my writing this, is to show the young Fancier there are gentlemen in the Fancy who will give very long prices for extra good birds, and are not to be obtained any other way; that birds are equally as dear or dearer now, as when Mr. MAYOR attended the sale on the 2nd of February, 1761. It is impossible to say what some rich Fanciers would give for the best birds, provided they could be obtained. Rich Fanciers do not take it with a good grace coming in second best; they all want to take first prizes at the shows. Some time ago a grand show of Poultry and Pigeons was to take place in a certain town. I received three letters from different gentlemen connected with the town, each soliciting if I could let him have a pair of Almonds that would take the first prize at the show. This placed me in a fix. Being very strong in Almonds at the time, I picked out three pair as near as I could for properties, and sent them. They gave satisfaction. Sometimes it happens the toss of your hat which birds will win (when Poultry judges take upon themselves the onerous office of awarding prizes to Pigeons). I knew it to be utterly impossible that the three pair of birds could take first prize at the same show; I reasoned, provided the birds were sent to three different shows, and the judges who awarded the prizes were incompetent to their work, who would undertake to say that each pair of birds would not take the "first prize in their turn?" The cause why A 1 good Pigeons are considered high at the present time is, in a great measure, owing to the shows that are taking place in Her Most Gracious Majesty's dominions; Fanciers, all wanting to take the first prizes, to play first fiddle—they will not play second fiddle, or, more classically speaking, they all want to be "top sawyers," not satisfied with taking second or third prizes. Suppose each county has a rich spirited Fancier, and a show to take place; he is determined for the honour of his county to take the first prizes, and determined to purchase the best Pigeons money will procure, which, after all, is a mere bagatelle or real economy to a rich spirited Fancier, who takes great delight in being with his birds, and determined to have the Pigeons that will take the first prizes, provided money can obtain them; or to breed from, in hopes to breed better birds. In my humble opinion, this is the cause of first-rate birds being so high at this time. Mr. MOORE mentions, paragraph 6, Sir RICHARD ATHERTON in 1726 having a Pout-er cock he valued at £5; also, paragraph 198, Mr. MOORE states Sir THOMAS DOLBY would have given him a guinea and a half for a Leghorn Runt. MAYOR, in his work, page 109, says, "I have known 4 guineas a pair given for Leghorn Runts." The prices in those days are comparatively nothing to what they are now for first-rate birds. One thing is quite certain from these accounts: there were men of distinction, Fanciers in those days, as there are now.

(MAYOR, p. 59.)—The Pouter is introduced in MAYOR'S Work among the Almond Tumblers; as he says, "purposely to shew the difference of trouble, time, and inconvenience, between breeding them and the Almond Tumblers." The Pouter was formerly much valued, as well as the Carrier, and seemed at one time to engross the principal

174.—Besides the five properties before mentioned, there is another, which though not generally allowed, will be found to be one of the best, I mean the carriage; under which I comprise the following heads.

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part of the Fanciers, but of late, numbers, who were very staunch in the Pouter Fancy, have, with myself, relinquished that, and become fond of the Almond Tumbler; and I make no doubt but many more will soon be tired, and follow my example; for when we consider the trouble that attends the breeding and raising of young Pouters, (exclusive of the extra expense), compared with that of the Almond Tumbler, it is not in the least to be wondered at, for the Pouter requires an infinite deal of attention, it being necessary to keep them separately all the winter season; that is to say, every single bird, cocks as well as hens, in a separate pen or coop, each of which must be furnished with meat and water, and should be lofty and spacious, as, otherwise, they would contract an habit of stooping, which is an imperfection, and should by all means be prevented. Then having (in the spring) matched or paired them, you must be provided with at least two pairs of Dragons, to every pair of Pouters, for nurses or feeders, which must be kept in a separate loft from the Pouters, otherwise they would bastardize, and spoil the breed. Pouters are never suffered, by those who are curious, to hatch their own eggs, they being bad feeders, and would often starve their young ones. When the Pouter has laid her egg, it must be shifted under a Dragon, that has likewise laid, nearly about the same time, and that of the Dragon be placed under the Pouter, exchanging the one with the other, it being necessary the Pouter should have an egg, or eggs, to sit on, to prevent her laying again soon, which would weaken, and in a short time kill her; likewise, the inconveniency attending them when gorged, by putting them in a stocking, as mentioned under the head of distempers (first by Mr. Moore—see Paragraph 84, 85.) Again, should a Fancier begin with half a dozen pair of Pouters, he would, in a short time, be under the necessity of purchasing more, or exchange (perhaps his best birds) for worse, in order to cross the strain, for should he (as the term is) breed them in and in, which is matching father and daughter, or any other way incestuously together, the breed would degenerate, and not be worth sixpence; whereas, the same number of Almond Tumblers would inevitably stock him for life, for the breeding of Tumblers in and in, would consequently breed them smaller, which is a perfection in them, and they require no attendance while breeding, provided you supply them with meat and water, and throw them a little straw, and do not (like the Pouter) require time to be lavished upon them to make them familiar. Experience teaches us that were Tumblers to be kept in separate pens, as the Pouters are, they would show in the same manner, and be equally as familiar as the Pouter, for the Pouter should be almost constantly attended and talked to, during the Winter season, in a phrase peculiar to that Fancy, viz.—hua! hua! stroking them down the back, and clacking to them as to chickens, otherwise they would lose their familiarity, which is one of their greatest beauties, and is termed shewing, and would make the finest of them despicable, which made a facetious gentleman of my acquaintance say, "that Pouters were a fancy more particularly adapted to Weavers, Cobblers, and the like kind of trades only, that worked in the same room where they were kept, that the owners might have an opportunity of conversing with them, at the same time they were earning their subsistence." Though I must allow of the propriety of the above observation, I cannot help thinking it rather severe than otherwise, for certainly every gentlemen has an undoubted right to please himself with the fancy he most delights in.

174. (Eaton.)—Read Moore, 174 to 178.—There are Fanciers in the present day contending there is a difference between shape and carriage. I do not know that I ever saw an elegant shape bird but that it possessed good carriage, I think from its elegance of carriage that in a great measure it derives the name Shape from. In my Almond Tumbler, in writing on one of the five properties it runs thus, shape or carriage, or it might have been laid down as shape and carriage. I think shape or carriage, as describing a property in a Pigeon, are synonymous, one and the same thing, at all events shewing grand style.

(Eaton.)—What folly for a Pouter Fancier to attempt to breed black mottle Pouters in Feather like mottle tumblers, what would they look like provided he could accomplish his end, where would be the beauty in feather, where the beautiful chap or chop, where the bib, shape of half-moon, the clean white thighs and flight, &c. &c. If you

were asked to name the bird, provided it could be bred, you would call it a tinker Pouter, what folly, therefore, to attempt these mongrels or monstrosities when you have such an excellent copy before, that has stood 123 years, be assured it will take you all your time, however quick at learning to imitate it, leave alone surpassing it. My advice to you is to abandon all foolish nonsense, besides losing years in attempting to accomplish it—leave well alone—you will experience great difficulty in obtaining perfection of feather in the large, noble, dignified English Pouter.

(Brent.)—The common English Pouter Pigeons are very interesting birds, they are merry, active, and engaging, though their large crops, when fully distended, give them rather a droll appearance; when at liberty they are continually on the move, cooing, clapping their wings, and flying from place to place; they are good breeders, if not bred in and in, a practice which cannot be too much guarded against; their young are large, and their flesh good; their plumage is generally blue-pied—though frequently of other colours. The fancy English Pouters are undoubtedly bred from this stock, by careful selection, by pairing birds not related, and frequent introduction of fresh blood, by which means a finer race has been established. Their points of excellence being the same, one description will suffice for both, except that the fancy birds are larger.

(Brent.)—These properties may be considered under the five following heads:—First. Length, of the body, from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail; and of the leg, from the knee-joint to the end of the toe-nail.

(Brent.)—Second. The crop, which should be very round and well blown up to the beak.

(Brent.)—Third. Shape: broad across the shoulders, the body tapering off, wedge-shaped to the tail; back, hollow; girth or waist, small; the legs moderately stout, and clothed with small feathers, like tight pantaloons.

(Brent.)—Fourth. Carriage, which should be upright, with the crop properly blown out, not slack nor stiff winded; prancing nicely on their toes, without jumping; and not raising the rump feathers when playing; spreading the tail like a fan, and keeping their legs moderately close.

(Brent.)—Fifth. Feather, by which the markings of their plumage is meant, whether blue, black, red, or yellow-pied; they should have a large white crescent on the fore-part of the crop, and a dark bib under the bill: this white must not run round behind the head; from seven to ten tip flight feathers in each pinion should be white, as also the covert feathers of the same number, and a small rose or crescent on the fore-part of the shoulder; the thighs, legs, and vent also white; the rest of the body should be dark, without any white.

(Brent.)—Blue-pied appears to be the most natural colour, black, red, and yellow, each the more valuable than the preceding, on account of the greater trouble of procuring good birds of those colours; and on account of the great difficulty of procuring red and yellow-pied Pouters with dark tails, they are allowed to have white, but on close inspection these will frequently be found to be of a pale strawberry, or mealy colour. Owing to their large crops, long legs, and high feeding, they are generally very bad nurses, consequently, the young are raised by placing their eggs under other pigeons that are good nurses, such as Dragons, which are kept on purpose, care being taken that these have laid very nearly at the same time. The Pouters must, however, be supplied with a pair of eggs to sit on, and a young one at hatching time, a few days old, to feed off their soft meat; otherwise they are apt to fall ill, or the hen be weakened by laying again too soon. Their nest-places, &c., should be lofty, that they may not contract a habit of stooping, and kept exceedingly clean. The birds it is recommended to keep separate during winter, and to make them as tame and familiar as possible. A register of their pedigree should be carefully attended to, whereby related birds may not be mated together; for, to have Pouters in perfection requires a great deal of attention and careful management, which will account for their high price.

Taken from "The Field, the Country Gentleman's Newspaper," 16th January, 1858.

Although we cannot go quite the length of Mr. Eaton, in likening any Pigeon to a beautiful woman, "yet a fine white Pouter," whilst "playing," certainly does bear a nearer resemblance than any other of its species to a graceful high-bred English lady.

175.—1. The crop ought to be so far filled with wind, as to show its full extent, without bufling or being slack-winded, which are both esteemed very great faults? The Pigeon that buffles, fills his crop so full of wind, that it is thereby strained, in such a manner, that he is ready to fall backwards, because he can't readily discharge the confined air, which renders him uneasy and unweildy, and many a good thing has, by this means, either fallen into the street, or become a prey to those fatal enemies of the Fancy, the cats. The other extreme is being slack-winded, so that he shows little or no crop, and appears not much better than an ill-shaped runt.

176.—2. The second beauty in carriage, is their playing upright, with a fine tail, well spread like a fan, without scraping the ground therewith, or tucking it between their legs; neither should they set up the feathers on their rump when they play, which is called rumping.

177.—3. The last beauty of carriage in a Powter is to stand close with his legs, without straddling, and keep the shoulders of his wing tight down to his body, and when he moves, to trip beautifully with his feet, almost upon his toes, without jumping, which is the quality of an Uploper.

178.—A Powter that would answer all these properties, might be said to be perfect, but as absolute perfection is incompatible with anything in this world, that Pigeon that makes the nearest advances towards them, is certainly the best.

179.—Some have answered them so well, that I have known eight guineas refused for a single pigeon of this breed.

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179. (Eaton.)—Moore, paragraph 59, says the Pouter is introduced among the Almond Tumbler purposely to show the difference of trouble, time and inconvenience between them and the Almond Tumblers, read paragraph. Mayor, page 59, states much truth as regards the Pouter; other observations startles me, which I shall notice by and bye. He says the Pouter was formerly much valued as well as the Carrier. The Pouter and Carrier is as much valued now, 1858, as ever they were; the only difficulty I know of is, they cannot be obtained good enough. In most of the counties there are spirited Fanciers and breeders of the noble and dignified English Pouter, especially in Warwickshire, Lancashire, Somersetshire, and, though last not least, at Halifax, in Yorkshire. I believe the London Fanciers can beat the Gentlemen Country Fanciers in breeding better birds from inferior birds, simply from their greater experience, paying more attention to their crosses. They know the largest Pouters do not always breed the largest; they know it is by making a hit with the cross. Again, if a Pout-er is stunted in its growth in the nest, that when it leaves the nest and feeds itself however much after it may eat, it never will make up a fine English Pouter. If a Fancier is desirous of raising an extra fine large Pouter, he must have two pair of feeders (large, strong, coarse Antwerps, there is a difference in Antwerps, some being smaller), or Drag-ons to bring them up, provided you want them fine birds. Again, some of the London Fanciers have been in the Fancy twenty, thirty, or forty years. Their experience is great, whereas many of the young and spirited Fanciers in the country are less experienced, only having come into the Fancy since the shows which are taking place in every county of Her Most Gracious Majesty's dominions and giving a Fil-lip to the Fancy. The fact is, the two great secrets in producing an extra Pout-er is, first, making a hit with the cross, "not breeding them in and in," secondly, by hatching and rearing them under Antwerps or Drag-ons. I prefer Antwerps to Drag-ons, believing they have more power to pump more food into the young one while

in the nest, where it grows amazingly. It is here where the Pout-er is made, if ever made. One young Pout-er is sufficient hard work for a pair of Antwerps or Drag–ons to pump in plenty of food, and to bring it up an extra fine-grown English Pout-er. An excellent Pout-er Fancier, showing me some of his splendid Pout-ers, speaking of a pair of Pout-ers, said they were seven inches length of leg when young, but only six inches and three quarters at six months. I believe the limbs do not improve after six weeks old; they will become stouter, and the feathers will grow and moult, but there are properties in a Pout-er infinitely before feather—viz., leg and girt. If the bird is deficient in these two properties, it never will be a noble, dignified Pout-er at all. It is galling to exchange better birds for worse, at the same time there must be an exchange to infuse fresh blood by way of a cross. Recollect, for it is certain one of the exchangers would have the best of it, and who knows but what it might be you? It must be done, therefore it is a mutual exchange, besides being an absolute "Needs be." MAYOR'S remarks (page 59) on the Pout-er are truly beautiful. You cannot do better than put them into practice, and do as the cobbler did,—stick to the last. MAYOR appears to be quite at home with the Pout-er, but all abroad with the Almond Tumbler, which I shall endeavour to prove, although I shall be brief.

179. (EATON.)—However much I admire MAYOR on the Pouter, in the same paragraph he astonishes and startles me, when he uses these words, speaking on the Almond Tumbler:—"They require no attendance while breeding, provided you supply them with meat and water, and throw them a little straw." I now appeal to the most experienced Almond Fanciers and breeders of the present day, if a greater mistake was ever made, especially coming from a Fancier who has made some true and beautiful observations on various Pigeons. For argument's sake, if Mr. MAYOR was alive, I would undertake to take his Pout-ers, he taking my Almonds, neither of us allowed feeders, I would undertake to raise more young Pout-ers than he did young Almond Tumblers. I consider the Almond Tumbler the most difficult bird there is to raise without feeders. Read paragraphs 443, 444, and 445, on shifting of the Almond Tumbler.

(EATON.)—In paragraph 186, I mentioned MOORE gives a short account of the Almond Tumbler. MAYOR gives a longer, that I considered great spirit must have taken place by the Gentlemen of the Fancy in the thirty years that took place between the dates of MOORE'S work, 1735, and MAYOR'S work, 1765. MAYOR, mentioning the sale of Pout-ers that took place in 1761, says the Almond Tumbler, at the time these Pigeons were sold, were not arrived at one half of the perfection that they are at this time, ninety-seven years ago; and it is the opinion of many, that were the same number of Almond Tumblers to be sold now they would bear a price equal if not superior to the above. Reading MAYOR'S account of them, "They require no attendance while breeding, provided you supply them with meat and water, and throw them a little straw;" while thinking on this startling account, I turned to look at his engraving of the Almond that accompanies his work. It appears to me to look as much like a game cock strutting after his hens as an Almond Tumbler; his black mottle Tumbler not much better, more like a white mottle Tumbler. I think from my observations and reflections neither MOORE, 123 years ago, and MAYOR, 97 years ago, ever saw the Tumbler in half the state of perfection they have been brought to, and I have witnessed at this time, 1858. I have not any doubt but MOORE and MAYOR have seen infinitely better Toy Pigeons than ever I saw, owing to Fanciers having allowed them to so degenerate, for on looking at the engraving of his Jacobine it looks truly beautiful and a lovely bird, besides the excellent account he gives of them. I cannot help thinking that the Almond Tumblers, even in MAYOR'S time, were half as good as in the present time; but that in MOORE'S time, 123 years ago, they were, comparatively speaking, like Dragons or Antwerps; that in MAYOR'S time, 97 years ago, they were like Skinnums. I am justified in making these remarks from observations, examining engravings, and the following account given from MAYOR on the Almond Tumbler:—"*They require no attention while breeding, provided you supply them with meat and water, and throw them a little straw!*" This account of them nearly winds me up, or I find my steam is getting up. I had better attempt to write what little I have to say before my steam is up. I am nearly choaked on writing on such a remark, and experience great difficulty in answering the account given. I have only simply one thing to do, and that is to draw my conclusions that they were very coarse birds in MOORE'S and

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA LUTETIÆ vel PARISIORUM.

The Parisian Powter.

180.—This Pigeon was originally bred at Paris (*) and from thence brought to Brussels, whence it was transmitted to us ; it has all the nature of a Powter, but is generally long cropped and not very large, it is short bodied, short legged, and thick in the girt; what is chiefly admired in this bird, is its feather, which is indeed very beautiful, and peculiar only to itself, resembling a fine piece of Irish stitch, being chequered with various colours in every feather, except the flight which is white ; the more red it has mixed with the other colours, the more valuable it is : Some are gravel-eyed, and some bull-eyed, but it is equally indifferent which eye it has.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA SALIENS. *The Uploper.*

181.—The Uploper is a Pigeon bred originally in Holland, its make and shape agrees in every respect with the English Powter, only it is smaller in every property. Its crop is very round, in which it generally buries its bill ; its legs are very small and slender, and its toes are short and close together, on which it treads so nicely, that when moving, you may put anything under the ball of its foot; it is close thighed, plays very upright, and when it approaches the hen, generally leaps to her, with its tail spread, which is the reason the name is given to it, from the Dutch word Uplopen, which signifies to leap up. These pigeons are generally all blue, white, or

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Mayor's time, compared to what the Almond Tumbler is at the present time, 1858. At this time some of the Almond Tumblers appear as they ought to be (Mayor is correct in stating if Tumblers were kept in separate pens they would show in the same manner and be equally as familiar as the Pout-er. I once had a black mottle hen by talking to it would show equally as well as any Pout-ers, save the Crap or Crop.) I wish it had been possible for Moore or Mayor to have seen the portraits of the Almond and Black mottle Tumblers, and other portraits that will accompany this work, and been able to have read my work on the Almond Tumbler.

179. (Girtin, p. 52.)—The Pouter that approaches nearest all these properties is a very valuable bird, and some Fanciers, by a patient perseverance and great expense, have bred these birds so near the standard prescribed, as to sell them for twenty guineas a pair.

(Eaton, p. 179.)—In my set of six life-size coloured engravings of the Almond Tumbler, Black-mottled, Yellow-beard, Red Bald-head, Tumblers, Black Carrier, and Blue-pied English Pouter, I have chosen the Blue-pied as showing the greatest variety of feather. Read from Paragraph 168 to Paragraph 175, I cannot help thinking that if four Pied English Pouters were placed before me, all of equal properties,—the Blue-pied, the Black-pied, the Red-pied, and the Yellow-pied, and I was allowed to make choice of one of these Pouters, provided the Blue-pied was a light bright sky or powder blue, like some of the Owl Pigeons, in colour, with beautiful black bars across the wings, &c., but what I should choose the Blue-pied, owing to the variety of feather in the Blue-pied, and its beautiful black bars across the flight, which I am so great an admirer of, although I am fully sensible that the Black-pied, Red-pied, and Yellow-pied, rank before it.

* 180. (Mayor, p, 103.)—This bird is vulgarly called called the Parazence Pouter.

181. (Mayor, p. 105.)—The reason they do not encourage the breed of them here, I should imagine is, having brougt the English Pouter to such perfection ; in fact, it has been reported that in Holland they have asked twenty-five guineas for a single pair of Uplopers, which I must confess I want faith to credit.

black, though I will not assert that there are no pieds of the species. There are but few of them in England, and I have been informed that in Holland they have asked five and twenty guineas for a single pair of them.

COLUMBA TABELLARIT GUTTUROSA.

The Powting Horseman.

182.—This Pigeon is a bastard strain between the Cropper and the Horseman, and according the number of times that their young ones are bred over from the Cropper, they are called first, second or third bred; and the oftener they are bred over, the larger their crop proves. The reason of breeding these Pigeons is to improve the strain of the Powters, by making them close thighed, though it is apt to make them rump, from the Horseman's blood. (*) They are a very merry Pigeon upon a house, and by often dashing off are good to pitch stray Pigeons, that are at loss to find their own home; (†) they breed often and are good nurses, generally feeding their young ones well. I have known these Pigeons to be six inches and six and a half in legs; they are a hearty Pigeon and, give them but meat and water, need very little other attendance. Some of them will home ten or twenty miles. (‡)

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* 182. (Mayor, p. 106.)—But having now brought the strain of the Pouters to so high perfection, that practice is disused.

† (Mayor, p. 106.)—Which gives great satisfactiton to those gentlemen who delight in the Flying Fancy.

‡ 182. (Eaton.)—There cannot be a doubt among Fanciers that the Pouting Horseman is a hybrid, between the Cropper and the Horseman, coming nearer in appearance to an English Pouter in miniature than a Horseman does to a Carrier in miniature, as I observed in a former part of the work. At the sale of Bantams, Pigeons, &c., belonging to the late celebrated and spirited Fancier, Sir John Sebright, I was astonished to see the English Pouters in miniature, possessing the five properties of the English Pouter, viz., 1st.—Length and shape of body; 2nd.—Length of Legs; 3rd.—Crop; 4th.—Feather; 5th.—Shape or carriage. It is the sagacity of the Horseman that enables it to find its way home, twenty miles or upwards, which proves they are good flyers, provided they are light in body and small in girt (to use the old Fanciers' term, of passing them through the ring of your finger, comparatively speaking.) I have seen some of these light-bodied Pouting Horseman that appeared to me to fly as light as Tumblers, and when flying with the Tumblers, their round globular crops, well filled and up, has a very pleasing effect, owing to the contrast of the Tumblers. With regard to dashing off, they are not only a merry but a spirited Pigeon; not only spirited, but graceful in the extreme; I would rather see an elegant shape, small or narrow-girt Pouting Horseman, six and a half inches in the leg, (think of this, Gentlemen of the Pouting Fancy!) than an English Pouter, even if it would measure seven inches. A large English Pouter, with thick girt and hog-backed. Style is a grand thing, and the Pouting Horseman is the English Pouter in miniature, retaining all its properties.

(Eaton.)—How often it happens at a grand show of these remarkable, fine, large, English Pouters, after having been previously prepared for showing, that is separating each cock and hen, and not allowing them to see a Pigeon, show well in their own pens; but when put into the show pen, a male bird, expecting it will show, it stretches forth its head and neck, apparently taking a sight of all the Fanciers in the room, almost as much as to say to some of them—you owe me something: some may show to a certain extent. It is very disheartening to Gentlemen Fanciers of the English Pouter when this takes place, after forwarding their birds miles, &c., to give

their brother Fanciers a treat, as it was supposed; it does not always turn out to be so, owing to their not showing, as it is called. Nevertheless, it often proves a treat to see what length of body and shape, length in leg and beautiful in feather. It is otherwise with the light (not heavy) merry-spirited Pouting Horseman cock, when put into the show pen, always up and ready for his work. not long in stripping himself, putting himself in attitude, and suiting the action to the word, display that fine action of showing which is well understood by the Gentlemen of the Fancy; giving infinite satisfaction with regard to being a merry Pigeon upon the top of a house, and by often dashing off, are good to pitch stray Pigeons that are at a loss to find their home. Allow me here, by way of bringing it to a close, to mention, when I was a little boy, and as I suppose a good little boy, (as is the custom to interpret favourably of children —for it is only when we are children of larger growth that we kick over the traces,) between fifty and sixty years ago, and scarcely could walk, I had that propensity for birds, whenever I had a halfpenny given me, I would go on all-fours up the stairs to one Jemmy Gilham, a bird catcher, who lived next floor to the skies, and lay out my all with this merchant bird catcher, for which I obtained a bird; how I got down with a bird in hand at this time perplexes me, for I can recollect I went up on all-fours—never recollect falling down; recollect when down, and coming into the light; the bird, I suppose must have been some hard-billed bird—hen sparrow, green bird, or chaffinch—gave me a severe peck; I let it go, and then had a good roar. This Jemmy Gilham, although only a bird catcher, had his heart in the right place. He knew me and my parents—he did not live far from us—brought me another bird and told me to hold it tight; I took his advice, being determined it should not get its head round to peck; I was no better off for a singing bird when I got it home than with the bird that pecked me and flew away; for in following his advice in holding it tight I had choked it! My kind and affectionate mother, seeing the trouble I was in, besides being bankrupt, (like mothers hang to boys, while the fathers stick to the girls—very natural!) sent the servant with a cage and obtained a bird for me; my broken heart began to mend; I was astonished to hear how plain it could say or speak, Pink! Pink! Pink! I was acquainted with him up to the time of his death, which was between forty and fifty years; he was a worthy old man, and there was not a vice in him, although he was only a humble bird catcher. There was a highly respectable Bird and Pigeon Dealer, of the name of Nathaniel Preston, corner of Featherstone-street, City-road—it was proverbial of him that he would use a child or boy as well as the most experienced Fancier—who would at times favour this bird catcher, who had a very pretty flight of Black Beards, &c., and say, "Jemmy, try this Squeaker, I entertain a high opinion of it." Among them was a blue-pied Pouting Horseman cock, one of the most splendid birds I ever saw—was good as a little fortune to him, and fly equal to any of his Tumblers, At the season of the year when bird catching was bad, he would sell off all his Pigeons except this blue Pouting Horseman cock and a black-bearded cock, (his other black beards he sold knew a thing or two, he used to say they would do forty miles). He would generally look two or three times a day to see what stray hens the cocks had brought in, and thought it a bad day's work if they did not bring in one a piece; as soon as he perceived a strange one, he took and sold it, turning the cocks out to look for others. I never witnessed such a flying Pouting Horseman as this; it flew more like a Hawk than a Pigeon, besides being such a bird for dashing off. It was unfortunately shot by a publican who had been a gamekeeper; I believe it was the cause of nearly ruining the poor old bird catcher. I have this week bought two pretty little Pouting Horseman cocks; I am informed they come from Norwich. I am given to understand they fly tremendously, with very large crops. I have not bought them with the idea of stray catching; having so many feeders, I should not know a strange Pigeon in the loft, unless a marked or superior Pigeon. My lofts being always open, they come in and go out as they like, I have matched these two little Pouting Horseman cocks to two of my best high-flying Tumbler hens, for the purpose of taking them up into the elements, for I think they look very well in flight with the Tumblers. I care nothing about their young; if they do not fly well when let out, they will make room for others that will. The Gentlemen Fanciers of the English Pouter may assume that I admire the small Pouting Horseman more than the large English Pouter. The contrary is the fact; I never have and never shall advise the young and inexperienced Fancier to attempt to breed a second-rate bird, while he has the opportunity to breed a first-rate bird, therefore I shall not advise him to breed the

COLUMBA REVOLVENS. *The Tumbler.*

183.—This bird is so called from an innate faculty peculiar to this species, which is their tumbling in the air, and which they effect by throwing themselves over backward, after the same manner that the most expert artists in tumbling perform what they call the back spring. (*)

184. A Tumbler is a very small Pigeon (†), short bodied, full breasted,

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Pouting Horseman, while he has the opportunity to attempt to breed the English Pouter, any more than I shall advise him to breed a Skinnum, Dragon, or Horseman, while he has the opportunity to attempt to breed a Carrier, for degeneracy will do that, in spite of the efforts of the most experienced Fanciers; but I am desirous you should breed the English Pouter with more style and grace, with a hollow back, smaller in the girt, stout legs, but not like mill-posts, soft downy or snow-like feather legs; but not rushed and sprouted with feathers that almost prevent the bird from walking.

182. (Eaton.)—I deeply lament and deplore that there are not more Gentlemen in this noble, dignified, graceful, and majestic Fancy, for its elegance, style, and boldness of figure, which so characterises the English Pouter, is well worthy of the utmost attention that the most accomplished Fancier can give it, and will amply repay him for all the toil, labour, time, trouble, and expense he has bestowed upon it.

182. (Brent.)—Pouting Horsemen are a cross between the Pouter Pigeon and the Horseman or Dragoon. They are fine, large birds, very active and merry, good flyers, and excellent breeders, being well adapted for general purposes, and not so shy as the dragoon; they would be good farm stock.

183. (Mayor, p. 68.)—Many people are of opinion that the Almond Tumbler will not perform this back spring, but I must beg leave to contradict this notion. as a gentleman with whom I am very intimately acquainted, who flies his Almond Tumblers in the country, has assured me they are fully as expert in tumbling as any Tumbler whatever.

(* Eaton.)—With regard to the Almond Tumbler's tumbling, when I first entered the Fancy, associating with Fanciers to purchase Almond Tumblers, one of the Fanciers said to me, "See my Almond Tumblers tumble, and go out of sight." I thought, comparatively speaking, I was determined I would not lose sight of them: they were let out, began tumbling in good style, mounted the elements, and in spite of the utmost watchfulness on my part, although only over my head, and a bright morning, they did go out of my sight. I watched them till they appeared not larger than flies, having by this time the crick in my neck by looking up so high and straight (I believe they were over my head). At last they appeared in sight, came gradually down, tumbling splendidly. I must confess I was astonished, and would not believe of Tumblers going out of sight over my head of a clear morning. On a moment's reflection, I felt I ought not to be so hard of belief. Most of us have seen a balloon up, which is somewhat larger than a Pigeon; we have watched that as carefully as we could, but it has given us the slip. I once saw three up at the same time; they appeared to me like migratory birds; you will not believe it strange when I inform you they appeared to be playing at "follow my leader," or one after another. I lost sight of them all; therefore it is not strange that Pigeons should go out of sight. With regard to tumbling, I have no doubt you have often witnessed the Tumbler's back not go over. This is in consequence of the bird having a long tail; the bird's head touching the tail balks the bird in going over. Some have cut an inch off the tail, and they have afterwards tumbled very well. In reasoning, it would follow that the Almond Tumbler, being so small, snug, and compact a bird—so short from the beak to the end of the tail, that if flown would tumble better than any other bird. It is certain the shorter and more chubby the Tumblers are the more they tumble; on the contrary, the large common run-out Tumblers, like Skinnums, seldom or never tumble.

† 184. (Eaton.)—A first-rate Tumbler, possessing the five properties, is, beyond all

Mottle

thin necked, spindle-beaked (*) and a short button head, and the irides of the eye of a bright pearl colour.

185.—The Dutch Tumbler is much of the same make, but larger; often feathered legged, and more jowlter-headed with a thin flesh or skin round the eye, not unlike a very sheer dragoon; some people don't esteem them on this account, though I have known very good ones of the Dutch breed, not any ways inferior to what they call the English. Others have remarked that they are apt to tumble too much, and to lose ground, that is, sink beneath the rest of the flight, which is a very great fault, but I have observed the same by the English, and am apt to believe that most of the extraordinary feathers have been produced by mixing with the Dutch breed; for it is generally observed that the English Tumblers are chiefly black, blue, or white.

186.—This Pigeon affords a very great variety of colours in its plumage, as blacks, blues, whites, reds, yellows, duns, silvers, and, in short, a pleasant mixture of all these colours with the white. But amongst all, there is a mixture of three clours, vulgarly called an Almond, (†) perhaps from

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doubt the smallest Pigeon that the Fancier takes into consideration. The Chinese Pigeon very likely a Fancier never saw; if he did, what would he make of it in the end. Mr. MOORE, in Paragraph 212, writing of the Jacobine Pigeon, states, "is, if true, the smallest of all Pigeons." I have not any doubt the Jack was a very pretty Pigeon in Moore's time, one hundred and twenty-three years ago; it has, at the present time very much degenerated, or the incomparable Tumbler, possessing the five properties, very much improved—it is certain, one or the other. In Moore's Work you will often fall in with the description of Button Head. What a button was in Moore's day I will not presume to say. Do as I am doing; put your finger upon the top button of the coat you have on. Is this the shape of head you are desirous of obtaining—fit to put a muffin or crumpet board on? Would you not rejoice to obtain the Carrier's head like it; the head and beak ought to be perfectly straight across as is the button: put your finger and thumb around the button. Is this the head you are desirous of obtaining for the Tumbler? It follows the button head is equally as applicable to the Carrier as to the Tumbler. It is a bad name to express a round-headed Pigeon; you had much better use the phrase, "round as a marble." I hope, however many may follow me, not any of you will make use of the term—Button-head I consider it inapplicable to the idea it was intended to convey. Some country Fanciers use the term to express the round-headed Tumbler; others call them bullet-headed. I think this a bad name, because I have seen bullets a bad shape, and consider them home-made; the name I like best is globular or round.

* 184. (MAYOR, p. 68.)—A short "spindle" beak.

† 186. (EATON.)—Mr. MOORE presents the Gentlemen of the Pigeon Fancy with a very small account of the splendid Almond Tumbler; it may be he was not an Almond Tumbler Fancier. I am of opinion the Almond Tumbler had not arrived to the excellence or standard it had acquired when MAYOR wrote on the Almond Tumbler, exactly thirty years after. I cannot help thinking, from the account given by MAYOR, compared to the account given by MOORE; who, for all in all, as a Fancier, I style or call the pre-eminent of Fanciers. There must have been great spirit among the Gentlemen of the Almond Fancy during this thirty years. It has been stated fifty or sixty years ago the Gentlemen of the Fancy had better birds than they have at the present time, that the Almond Tumbler was a more perfect bird than it is now, which I do not believe. If the question was put to me, What is your opinion with regard to Tumblers, Carriers, or Pouters, whether there is anything alive in the present day equal to what has been seen, taking into consideration the many generations of Pigeon Fanciers who have shewn, now gone to their long homes? I should conscientiously answer, No! Believing there has been better birds than can now be seen alive. The Fancy, like everything else, ebbs and flows, in some generations there are more ardent and enthusiastic Fanciers

the quantity of almond coloured feathers that are found in the hackle: others call it an ermine, I suppose from the black spots that are generally in it; however I am sensible the name is not compatible to the term so called in heraldry, which is only white spotted with black; yet as the gentlemen of the Fancy have assigned this name to this motley colour, I shan't quarrel with them about a term; if the three colours run through the feathers of the flight and tail, it is reckoned a very good almond, or ermine, and is much valued.

187.—*N.B.* An ermine Tumbler never comes to the full beauty of its feather, till it has twice molted off, and when it grows very old will decline till it runs away to a down-right mottle or other colour.

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than in other generations, besides, Pigeon Fancying has its fashions; at times, it is all the rage to breed Carriers, other times the Pouters, then again Almonds, or black, red, or yellow-mottled Tumblers. Had MOORE seen the Almond Tumbler in the state MAYOR described it, I believe he would have told us more about it; he was too honest a Fancier to have done otherwise. I cannot help thinking after carefully having studied and digested MOORE'S work, he paid more attention to the Carrier and Pouter than he did to the Tumbler. It is very remarkable that MOORE does not mention the black-mottled Tumbler, the yellow mottled Tumbler, or the red mottled Tumbler, neither does he mention the bald-head Tumbler, or the beard Tumbler. He leaves me here in a fix. Read Paragraphs 185, 186. In Paragraph 186, MOORE says, this Pigeon affords a very great variety of colours in its plumage, as blacks, blues, whites, reds, yellows, duns, silvers, and in short a pleasant mixture of all these colours with the white; at the same time I am driven to exercise my brains upon this subject, and cannot help thinking there must have been black, yellow and red-mottled bald-heads, and beard Tumblers in MOORE'S day, as this Fancy ranks so high with Gentlemen Fanciers, I do feel astonished and surprised he did not mention the mottles, bald-heads, or beard Tumblers, for aught I know, the mottles, bald-heads, and beards, were as prevalent then as they are now; MOORE might have considered it unnecessary to mention, or might have considered he had mentioned it when he stated there were Tumblers of all colours: I acknowledge there is, and of whole or self-colour, as it is termed by the Fanciers. MAYOR, thirty years after, gives an account of the blacks, yellows, and red-mottled Tumblers, also of the bald-head and beard Tumblers.

187. (BRENT).—It is with considerable caution that I approach these peculiar pets of the Fancy, for, as most gentlemen have some point in this hobby which they consider paramount, it is impossible to enter into a full description of these beautiful little Pigeons in the small compass of this paragraph. I shall, therefore, make a few general remarks on the points, properties, and management of these birds, and recommend those who desire a fuller description, to peruse Mr. J. M. EATON'S "Treatise on the Almond Tumbler."

(BRENT.)—The Almond Tumblers were obtained by careful breeding, selecting, and crossing colours from the commoner kind of Tumblers, and after a long series of years, by drafting and breeding in and in, as much as it was prudent, have they been brought to the state of perfection in which they are now to be seen. I am inclined to think the name of "Almond" originated in their ground-colour being formerly that of the well-known "Almond (nut);" though they are now bred of a much brighter colour. The colour of the Almond Tumbler is a mixture of yellow, red, black, and white, well broken and intermixed; but short-faced Tumblers are of various colours and markings, as black, white, yellow, red, kite, and dun, silver or blue, either whole coloured, mottled with white, bald-headed, bearded, or magpied. Their points of excellence may be enumerated under the five following properties of head, beak, eye, shape, and feather:—The head must be round, broad, and high, rising abruptly from the beak; and the fuller and more projecting the forehead, the more it is valued. The beak should be short, small, straight, and tapering, measuring, from the eye to the end of the quick of the beak, from five-eights to three-quarters of an inch in length,—the shorter the better;

nor must the nostrils be large, but only slightly developed. How much better would it be if all Pigeon Fanciers would adopt this standard of measuring to the end of the quick ; then there would be no inducement to pare the Tumblers' beaks, nor yet to coax the bill of a Carrier, or the toe-nail of a Pouter, to an ugly and unnatural development of horn ; length or shortness are respectively considered beauties, but these deformities can hardly be considered as such. The eye should be prominent, round, bright, and of a clear pearl colour, without streak or mud-marks, and also free from sere. In shape, the neck should be short and thin ; the head carried rather backwards ; the neck slightly bending ; the chest full, and well thrown out ; the back short ; the body round, and as small as possible ; the flight and tail short ; their feet small, and the bird standing on its toes, the ball of the foot often slightly raised from the ground. Feather is considered the last property ; not but that good plumage adds great beauty to the bird, and much enhances the value of an otherwise good specimen. The more an Almond has of bright yellow, and the clearer and more decided the black, so much the more is it admired. Yellow, black, and white are the primary colours, and the more these are intermixed the more they are prized. Blue is considered very objectionable. Mottled Tumblers are those of any colour where the flight and tail are dark and the bodies spotted with white feathers. Of the markings of Baldheads, Beards, and Magpies, I will write more fully in my next, when I speak of flying Tumblers. In and in breeding (that is, coupling relations) is of considerable use in reducing their size and making them fine and delicate ; but caution is required not to carry this process too far, or they will become so weakly and degenerate, that scarcely any offspring will be raised—and these few worthless. The finer and more delicate they are, the more they are admired ; consequently, they exist in an artificial state. From their weakness, they are rarely allowed to enjoy their liberty, though on account of their high breeding and good living, they breed freely, but are very apt to leave their young and go to nest again before the squabs are capable of keeping themselves warm. To prevent these dying, they are shifted to a pair of feeders that have hatched later, so as to secure them more attention and a fresh supply of soft meat (a pap on which the old pigeons feed the young at first). These feeders must, however, be small pigeons with small beaks, or the nurslings may be injured, or have their tender beaks twisted or broken in feeding (I don't know if it has ever been tried, but fancy the Collard Turtle-doves would make good nurses for these tiny pets). If the young Tumblers are very fine, or the weather cold, it may be necessary to shift them several times ; thus, several pairs may be shifted in rotation, the Almonds themselves taking an elder pair of some of their companions. Their loft should be kept scrupulously clean. They are fond of bathing ; their water must be kept clean and sweet, and their food be of the best quality. Each pair should be provided with a separate breeding-pen, so constructed that it can be closed at pleasure, either to keep in a troublesome gent, or to prevent others annoying a weakly one. Earthen pans should be provided for nests, placed on a shelf in the pen, and short straw or fine heath twigs for building materials. When the young are sufficiently old, they should be placed on the floor of the pen to prevent their disturbing the old ones when sitting again, or injuring themselves by falling down. A registry should be kept of all births and marriages, and many other particulars. A great deal of care and attention is necessary to insure success. No one will, therefore, wonder at the high prices paid for good birds.

(Brent.)—P.S.—Since writing the above, I was somewhat surprised at seeing in the "Poultry Chronicle," for June 7th, a wish expressed by Mr. J. M. Eaton, to the effect that Splashed birds should be shown in the Almond class, his reason being that Splashed Short-faceds are Almond-bred birds, and are preferred by some breeders as more likely to breed Almonds. Notwithstanding all due deference to Mr. Eaton's superior knowledge of the breeding of this beautiful pet of the Fancy, I must dissent from him in this respect. An Almond I consider strictly a feather variety ; but Short-faceds are of various colours, most of which are occasionally used for breeding Almonds. I think it would be equally inconsistent to award a prize to a Splashed in the Almond class, as it would be to a Kite, a Dun, or any other colour. As well might a Sebright Fancier require a first prize for a deeply-laced cock and faintly-laced hens in preference to an evenly-laced pen of birds, on the plea of the greater probability of their producing better chickens ; or the tulip grower might argue his right to pre-eminence as having the best shaped breeder in preference to a less accurately shaped fancy flower.

(Brent.)—I think, also, that as all Pigeons have ten flight-feathers, the standard

should include the whole ten and not nine. I know no reason why the last should be overlooked more than the first; why not omit one on each side of the tail? Surely, one would be equally just with the other. Mr. J. M. E. will, I have no doubt, excuse the remarks of a brother Fancier; I believe he was lead to express this wish from being a head and beak fancier, and not a feather fancier.

187. (Eaton.)—I believe in another part of this Work, now in the hands of the printers, therefore cannot refer to it, the cause of my recommending Splash birds, as they are called, being shown among Almonds, viz., a prize for the best pair of Almond or Splash-Almond bred birds, I do not approve of disqualifying a bird altogether from competing simply because it is deficient of a feather, and therefore is not a standard Almond Tumbler, while it could take the other properties out of five, it opens the door to let in an Almond standard bird, seven-eighths of an inch, a regular Skinnum, a precious specimen of an Almond Tumbler. I have never gone the length to introduce Kites, Duns, or any other colour. If there is one prize in a show I admire above all others, it is for the best pair of Tumblers; then they must be awarded on the five properties, provided the judges are up to the mark. I will not write more here on the subject, having written elsewhere. I am desirous of hastening on to pick a bone with Mr. Brent, as we are too far distant from each other to take a rump steak and oyster sauce with it, &c., &c., although I feel grateful to Mr. Brent for his kindness, he will not think the less of me if I do not believe all he preaches. Mr. Brent observes, as well might a Sebright Fancier require a first prize for a deeply-laced cock and faintly-laced hens, in preference to an evenly-laced pen of birds. I mentioned in a former part of this Work I knew, comparatively speaking, very little about fowls; so foolish about them I thought Bantams had more properties than one (feather). I am so foolish in this science, I thought the double rose comb a property, shape, carriage, or form a property, besides many others. Mr. Brent here only mentions one property (feather); am I to draw my inference they have only one property, or that the Bantam is disqualified from showing on account of a single feather wrong, although on all the other properties this pen of Bantams could lick their competitors into fits. How would it be if an exhibitor saw pens of Bantams disqualified from showing, simply because they did not match (like tailor's twist in a button hole to the cloth). Examining his own birds, and calling to his aid brother Fanciers, equally as good Fanciers as the Judge, they declared his the most marked, laced, or spangled, &c., pen of Bantams in the show, the exhibitor afterwards has an interview with the Judge, and informs him as he has disqualified many Pens of Bantams, because they did not match, he claimed the prize for his birds because they matched infinitely better than any other pens of Bantams, on principle, how would the Judge look, but what could he say? They are too wise to hear these beautiful remarks; it does not sound "like music to their ears;" classically speaking, they "cut their sticks" before the exhibitors are admitted to the shows. I shall never forget the fine and beautiful remarks that dropped from Mr. Tegetmeir's lips one one occasion, when he called upon me at my house. Talking over the Fancy, one thing led to another. He asked me—Did I not know how to take the prizes at a show? to which I answered—No. He replied—By buying the birds of the Judge or Judges. I thought I never heard so much truth in so few words in my life. As regards feather, whether in a fowl or pigeon, provided they have no other property, I would not give as much as a poulterer would for it after the bird was dead, trussed and fit for the spit. I think these remarks are applicable to other birds as well as to—beyond all doubt the first of Fancy fowls—the Bantam. With regard to tulips, I don't understand. 'Tis hard for a man to understand himself; I am tulip enough myself.

(Eaton.)—Mr. Brent is not correct in stating that all Pigeons have ten flight-feathers; he alludes to the long flight (for they have short flights also), and he alludes to the turn of the long flights; some Almond Fanciers state that there are as many Almonds that have only nine feathers in their flight as there are that have ten at the turn of their flight. I will not go so far as that. The Fanciers of the original Columbarian Society acted wise in taking the nine first feathers of each wing, counting from their extremities, simply because there are many Almonds that have only nine feathers at the turn of the flight, would it be fair that one Fancier should have to show ten feathers aside, or to the turn feather, while another is shown with nine feathers *only* at the turn flight; the length feather might not be a standard feather, which would prove fatal. There are a great many Almonds that have only nine feathers aside; it

188.—These Pigeons by their flight afford an admirable satisfaction, to those gentlemen of the Fancy that have time to attend them, and make their observations; for besides the pleasure they afford by their tumbling, which is very considerable, they will rise to an immense height in the air, so that sometimes the eye can scarcely follow them. I have frequently lost sight of them, though they have been almost perpendicular over my head and the day has been very clear and serene; yet by a fixed regard of the place where I lost them, (for they never ramble far like the Horseman, and if good when they are used to each other, a flight of a dozen will keep so close together, that you may cover them all with a large handkerchief) I have at length perceived them, but so small that they appeared no bigger than a sparrow.

189.—At this height they will keep two, three, four and sometimes five hours together, nay I have heard it frequently asserted, that there have been pigeons of this breed, which have flown nine hours, (*) when they are up at their pitch, the better sort seldom or never tumble, choosing rather to afford you that diversion when they are more in sight, tumbling very often at the first beginning to rise, and again when they are coming down to pitch.

190.—I now come to the method of raising a flight of Tumblers; and in the first place, they ought, if you have the convenience, to be kept in a loft by themselves, not having any acquaintance, if possible, with your other pigeons; for if they are used to fly with others, it will make them

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would not be fair in me showing an Almond with only nine feathers in the turn of flight; it would be anything but just. I am sure from the kindness I have received from my brother Fancier, Mr. BRENT, he will excuse the remarks I have made, believing he was led to express these remarks from being more of a feather fancier than a short-faced head and beak fancier. At the same time I believe Mr. BRENT is not aware that in the standard laid down for an Almond, that it should have twelve feathers in the tail, neither more or less.

* 189. (MAYOR.—p. 70.)—Or twelve hours; but I hope to be excused in thinking the Gentlemen of the Flying Fancy may have been deceived in point of time, when they have made those assertions, though I cannot absolutely contradict it. I remember to have heard an old Fancier (not a mile from Long Acre) declare, that he once had a flight of Tumblers that soared so prodigiously high, that (to use his own words) he could see them when they were out of sight, which undoubtedly appears rather paradoxical; but as miracles never cease, we shall suffer that to pass for one.

189. (EATON.)—I cannot help thinking that MAYOR required a little charity with the old Fancier, for seeing his birds when out of sight; there is such a difference in our vision at times. You know at times we see double. What makes it remarkable at the same time is, none of us can see a hole through a ladder. It is possible the first might apply to the old Fancier, and the second to MAYOR. For a moment allow me to indulge in the phantom of the mind; I wonder where MAYOR heard the old Fancier relate it; no doubt at a meeting of Fanciers, at which they were mellowing their clay. Depend upon it, it was not at a Total Abstinence Society, for they were not in fashion at the time. My flyers and feeders being of various sorts, would not furnish a criterion as to how long Tumblers will fly. I recollect reading an account in *Bell's Life* or *The Field* of a wager as to which flight of Tumblers would fly or keep up the longest. One flight kept up six hours and a half, the other flight came down in half-an-hour, although this flight has been known to keep up seven hours and a half. The amazing power of the Tumbler to fly, appears almost incredulous.

sink their flight, when they observe others skimming in the air below them.

191.—Secondly, they ought to be turned out and put upon flight only once a day at most, and that by themselves, after being well acquainted with your house ; the morning is the best time for this diversion, and after they are come down, throw them a little hempseed or rape and canary to entice them in and so keep them confined until the next day.

Thirdly. If possible get one or two that have been used to flying high, for they will train your young ones up the sooner.

192.—Besides these things, the Fanciers have observed particular seasons, when a Tumbler will make a more extravagant flight than ordinary, as for instance, when she sits upon eggs, and a few days after having fed off the soft meat ; I can't find any philosophical reason to be given for this, yet as it is confirmed by observation, I thought it worth taking notice of.

193.—Another time, when they will make a very extraordinary flight, is, when you observe ravens, crows or any other birds wantonly playing at a great height in the air ; this may be very easily accounted for, there being at such a time something, in the temperament of the air, suitable to the genius of those birds, that delight in the upper regions of the atmosphere.

194.—Here I must advise the Fancier, not to turn out his Tumblers, when there appear any signs of a rising fog, for by this means the sight of their habitation is intercepted, and many a good flight lost for ever.

195.—A high wind will likewise drive them too far from home, so that if they are not entirely lost, they may lie out all night, and so be exposed to the cats or various other accidents.

196.—Lastly, never turn out your hen Tumbler when she is with egg, for besides that she is at that time sick and unfit to fly, so likewise by her long flight, she may drop her egg, an instance of which I have known, and so prevent the increase of your breed.

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196. (BRENT.)—Under this denomination it is my intention to include all the varieties of the most interesting and amusing kind of Pigeon with which I am acquainted. The fancy Almond and the high-bred short faced Tumblers I mentioned briefly in my last, referring those that require a fuller description to Mr, J. M. EATON'S Work, where they will find full particulars as to their managment, breeding, &c., as also accounts of the trouble and difficulty of rearing "a little wonder ;" but such pains will, I fear, be only bestowed by a few enthusiastic Fanciers. The varieties of this breed that now come under our notice are very numerous ; their soaring flight and their aërial gymnastics will call forth much admiration, and are, I conceive, well calculated to enlist the sympathies of the student of nature. The Tumbler Pigeons are well known in most of the countries of Europe ; in France they are called "Voltigeurs," or "Calbutants ;" in Germany, "Burzel," "Umschlager," or "Tummler-Tauben." Their name is derived from their throwing a summersault while flying, which they sometimes perform three or four times at a single spring, clapping their wings together over their back, then suddenly bringing them down with force, they throw themselves back on their tails, but fearing to go over, and some are a long time before they overcome their fears ; this is called "backing." When young birds fly well and back much

without going over (a great defect), I have found it useful to pull out the middle o their tail, so that the next time they back they often fall over, and from that learn to tumble well; some tumble too much at a time, and thereby lose the flight, or cause the others to come down after them, which is very objectionable. I have heard of a new sort (at least new to me), called rollers, because they roll along with the flight, but never having seen them, cannot describe them; perhaps some of the readers of the *Poultry Chronicle* may know them, and oblige me by a description. The Tumblers should be kept in a house by themselves, and only let out once a day; the best time is in the morning before the sun is very hot, and when they have had their fly they should be shut up for the rest of the day, and not allowed to associate with other Pigeons, or they will contract a habit of low flying, which would spoil them; they should be kept in a commodious house, and in constant daily exercise, or they become lazy. Their house should be provided with plenty of food, clean water, and grit; a "salt cat" will be found very useful, made of old mortar, coarse sand, clay, and a little salt; nor should green meat be omitted, such as lettuce, cabbage, &c., and an occasional bath is very beneficial.

(Brent.)—They are excellent breeders, and do not require so much attention as most fancy Pigeons; keep them clean and in exercise, give them good food and water, and materials to build with, and they will do well. Although their young are small, they are excellent in pies, and are produced in abundance, provided they are not cramped for room.

(Brent.)—The Tumbler should have a nice round head, a pearl eye, a short beak, a full chest, and a consequential deportment; they assimilate to the Almond short-faced in properties, but if intended for the Flying Fancy, must be stouter and of stronger constitution,—in fact, not so high bred. They may be met with of various grades of goodness, like most other fancy articles: their plumage is the most varied of all Pigeons; there are whole colours, of black, blue, white, red, yellow, or buff, silver, dun, ash-coloured and kite; also mottles of all these. There are two kinds of mottles, dark and light; the dark have only a few feathers of white about head and shoulders; the white mottles must have the whole of the flight and tail dark, the rest of the body white, interspersed with a few coloured feathers. Then there are the pieds; first, the magpie tumbler, black, blue, red, or yellow, with white wings, breasts, thighs, and vent, evenly marked without one coloured feather, the rest of the body being dark without any white. I have also seen reds and yellows with quite white shoulders like shields. The Germans have a large variety of Tumblers, which fly well and tumble very nicely; they are of various colours, either whole coloured or dark with white flight and tails; often with a small beard, and their feet are covered with very long white feathers, many of the feathers on the toes measuring four or five inches in length. I kept a flight of them when in Germany, and was agreeably surprised to find them excellent high flyers and very prolific; but, to my great discomfiture, when I had got them almost to perfection in flying, a large hawk made a daily descent upon them, and so reduced their numbers that I was obliged to leave off flying them. These rough-footed Tumblers I found very plentiful in and about Coblentz, on the Rhine; in other parts of Germany, they have many clean-footed Tumblers of various colours, as magpies helmets, and beards, but their beards have only a white beard and flight feathers, the rest of the body being dark, of various colours. Respecting Rolling Tumblers, I am not able satisfactorily to answer; but from all that I can learn they are only those birds that tumble very much, and known as Dutch Tumblers, but are not much esteemed by the Flying Fanciers on account of their falling so much that they bring down the flights. If Rollers are not the same as what are here called Dutch, and in Germany "Hollanders," I must plead ignorance of them.

(Eaton. 196.—Brent gives an excellent and accurate account of the Dutch Roller. When I look at a Dutch Roller, and a pretty little compact short-flight and tailed Tumbler, I must confess I am surprised at the difference of tumbling in these two birds, for the Dutch Roller Tumbler is as common a looking Pigeon as the house Pigeons that are kept at the inns on the road side "Where weary travellers love to call." Besides, they are such bad, slobbered, patched-feathered birds, there is not a single beautiful property in them, unless it is in their feathered legs. If many good Fanciers, who did not know, was asked what they were, would answer Skinnums, considering they were not worthy of a better name; on the the contrary; whereas, the neat, plea-

sant—say three-quarter-inch-faced—Tumblers (I am not alluding to short-faced Tumblers), which you have a right to expect would tumble, do not tumble at all. How often you observe a flight of Tumblers, say twenty or more, how seldom or few tumble at all; you may observe one or two. I cannot think what has come to the Tumblers as regards tumbling. When I was a boy, I recollect Jemmy Gilham having a beautiful flight of Black-beards; I have watched them many times, and been greatly delighted with their tumbling. On one occasion, going to Wales, the coach stopped in the town for the passengers to take dinner and change horses; being on the outside of the coach, just at this time three flights of Tumblers were started. Whether the Fanciers had caught glimpse of a stray, only being a bird of passage myself, I cannot say; I must confess I was astounded at these flights of Tumblers. They appeared to hover about in a small space, scarce like flying, like as you have seen white moths in fine summer dusky nights hovering among Poplar trees. Their tumbling I can only compare to a toy you hold in your fingers which tumbles beautifully. It may be called for ought I know, a Chinese tumbling toy. I have not any doubt but these Pigeons were Dutch Rollers. I went without my dinner. I would not mind going without it again for another such sight. A short time since a Fancier strongly recommended me to buy twenty Dutch Rollers from a celebrated strain; I did so; not that I wanted them myself; but recollecting how many Gentlemen Fanciers had written to me stating their Tumblers would not tumble, I was very choice of these twenty Dutch Rollers, dividing them among Fanciers, letting one Fancier have one, others two, and one Fancier, who deeply regretted his Tumblers would not tumble, and who was very desirous they should, I let have four. Mr. Moore, paragraph 135, says the Dutch Tumbler is much of the same make, but larger; often feather-legged, and more jowlter-headed, &c.; that most of the extraordinary feathers have been produced by mixing with the Dutch breed. I should have thought, from this account, the Dutch Roller Tumbler, jowlter headed, its head would have appeared like the head of a first-rate Barb, but, on the contrary, appears no better than a common house Pigeon, or Skinnum, its feather anyhow, as though left to themselves for the last twenty years to match themselves, and they are extraordinary bad feathers. I have tried to find out the cause of these common-looking birds tumbling so much. I have reasoned on cause and effect, and an idea struck me, going back to barbarous times and among barbarians, they observed some birds could swim and others could not; it may have bothered them as the Dutch Roller bothers us to their tumbling. The barbarians could not discover why some birds swam and others not. On examining the birds in their way, they might say the only difference they could perceive was a kind of skin attaching the toes; civilized society would call it web-footed. The only cause I can give for the Dutch Roller tumbling so much is their being feather-legged. We witness the effect, the cause we do not know any more of than how an Antwerp finds its way home six hundred miles (Mr. Brent gives a good account even of this). At times, watching my feeders flying, I have observed a few tumble; I have kept my eye on them till they alighted, and observed they were more or less feather-legged. They may have been crossed with the Dutch Roller. I acknowledge some clean or wire-legged birds, as they are called, will tumble. Formerly, the Dutch Tumbler may have been a pretty bird; it appears to me they have been greatly neglected, like our Baldheads and Beards; the Short-faced nearly lost, with the exception of a few Fanciers who have them. When Moore, 123 years ago, wrote on the Dutch Tumbler, it was a pretty or pleasant bird, and much crossed with our Tumblers; now, the Dutch blood being worked out of them, our flying Baldheads and Beards appear in head and beak no better than Skinnums. I think the short flight and tail, short but feather-legged Almond, or Almond-bred birds—viz.—Almonds, Splashers, Kites, Whole-feathers, &c., would tumble infinitely superior to any Tumbler we have; I think this is worth trying.

MOTTLED TUMBLERS.

(Mayor, par. 196, A. p. 64.)—There was also a prize last season for black mottled Tumblers, whose properties should agree with those of the Almond Tumbler, except the feather, which should be a black ground, the body mottled with white, with a black tail and flight; and when they are in perfection, they are an excessive pretty fancy and very valuable. There is likewise another very pretty fancy, equal at least, if not superior, to the black mottled Tumbler, viz., the yellow mottled Tumbler, whose properties also agree with the Almond Tumbler, except the feather, which should be a

Bald-Head

Beard

yellow ground, the body mottled with white, and a yellow flight and tail. Either of these two last mentioned fancies are extremely useful (provided they answer in their other properties) to intermix occasionally with the Almond.

(Eaton, 196.)—I am not aware that I can better guide you to what a mottle should be, whether black, yellow, or red, than refer to the Engraving of the Mottled Tumbler that will accompany this Work. I am sensible the Engraving cannot show black, yellow and red on the same plate, otherwise it would require three engravings. I am rather surprised Mr. Mayor did not mention the red mottles; they are equally as beautiful as the black or yellow mottle, and infinitely more scarce. I have seen some dun mottles very pretty, they are generally bred from black mottles; provided you are sure of their pedigree they are equally as safe to match to black mottles, as the black mottles, but not to show for a prize. The engraved mottle will convey to you how sound the body, flight and tail feathers ought to be, and how it ought to be mottled, provided you do not already know it. In fact, a thorough sound mottle, of whatever coloured feather, should be a thorough sound whole feather, body, flight, and tail, with the exception of the pinion on the wing. The rose pinion is the handsomest, with or without the handkerchief back; these feathers should be white. Moore does not mention this Pigeon. Whether in Moore or Mayor's time they had the handkerchief back, as is now understood by the Fanciers of the present day; whether they had or not, one thing I know, there is not any mention of it by Moore, Mayor, Girtin, or or any other writer upon the black, yellow, or red mottle; I wish you to understand, once for all, that a mottle is a mottle provided its colour be sound black, yellow, red, or any other colour. I can very well recollect the time when I insisted upon the mottle of whatever colour, to have no other feather in it but about nine or ten white feathers in the shoulder of the wing, to form the rose pinion, as it is called, being the most elegant of all pinions. Some worthy old Fanciers greatly contend for the handkerchief back, as a relief to the mottled Tumbler, by having the back a little way down mottled with white feathers, experiencing the difference between breeding the bird for feather and that of giving an artist instruction in painting a portrait, in which you can have nine, ten, or eleven white feathers placed in the portrait just where you please. It is otherwise with regard to breeding a mottle for feather, for the white feathers may come where you do not want them, and then you call it spot-rumped or glazed-faced. Talk's cheap and costs nothing; I am aware in five minutes' talk you can breed prettier marked birds than in seven years' practice. You may ask me whether I consider it a Hit or Miss? Luck's all; to which I distinctly answer,—No. On the contrary, great judgment is required, and a knowledge of how your birds were bred as regards matching.

(Eaton, 196.)—Mayor in his Work has what he calls a black mottled Tumbler. It has black flight and tail, white bodied, with about thirty or forty black feathers, spotted or dotted over the white body, (like the old-fashioned spotted carriage dogs). These mottles are called by the Gentlemen of the Fancy Gay Mottles.

BLUE TUMBLER.

(Eaton, 196 B.)—I cannot by any possibility let the opportunity pass without noticing the observations and great admiration the venerable and much respected old Fanciers bestow upon the amazingly pretty little compact sky or powder blue, whole feather, with its black bars, black as ebony; the short-faced head and beak, with its other properties—"The pretty little blue Tumbler." Whenever they have the opportunity to see one, I have almost fancied they would have gone into fits, in observing a good one with its five splendid properties—head, beak, eye, carriage or shape, and feather. It appeared to me almost to make them boys again, or to remind them of times gone by, although now they sing experimentally, and with feeling, "John Anderson, my Joe." One thing I am quite certain of; it has as great or greater effect upon them "as going to the mill to be ground young again." Unfortunatly, it is seldom you have the opportunity to see one; they are very scarce at this time, 1858. It is an exceedingly pretty little Tumbler Pigeon.

BALDHEAD.

(Mayor, 196 C., p. 74.).—The bald-pated Tumblers, which are of various colours in their body, as blacks, blues, &c., with a clean white head, a pearl eye, white flight,

and white tail, are esteemed good flyers, and are very pretty, even when flying in the air, for the contrast of the feather appears at that distance when the weather is clear and fine. But the blue ones are reputed to rise higher than any other colour.

(Corker, 196 C.)—The Bald-head Tumblers, which are of various colours in their bodies, as blues, blacks, reds, yellows, duns, almonds, &c., there is a difference of opinion in respect to the cut of the bird, some preferring the head and part of the neck white, but I prefer the close cut under the beak; in fact, the head only white, clean-thighed, white feathers to the turn of the flight, and if blue, the bars to be black. When birds are close cut, Fanciers term it "the rings." Pleasant-faced are good flyers and tumble well, more particularly the blue and black. Since the introduction of the Antwerp birds into this country, there has been a great change; in fact, it is with great difficulty we see a flight of these very pretty birds. They are also a very good class of birds for tossing at a short distance.

(Tonge, 196 C.)—Nothing in creation is prettier than the short-faced Baldhead, when possessing the five properties which constitute the Tumbler, viz., head, beak, eye, carriage, and feather; but at this period they are very scarce. Nothing is easier than to imagine how they ought to be; marking is very characteristic in this variety, and when clean cut, clean thighed, and even-flighted, no wonder the general admiration of Fanciers should be excited. Many perfectly marked birds are to be found amongst their long-faced brethren, but the difficulty of obtaining head and beak with uniformity of marking is very great. Many are the experiments which have been made for their propagation, and perhaps not the least successful is the having recourse to an occasional cross with the high-bred Almond Tumbler. Great must be the patience and perseverence of the Fancier, who would accomplish the task: he must expect defeat and disappointment; the only balm for his labour is the hope of success, although thwarted in this effort once, twice, or thrice; the only encouragement left is to "Try again!"

(Brent, 196 C.)—Baldhead Tumblers are very pretty; their bodies are of various colours, as black, blue, &c., from which they receive their name, as Black Baldheads, and so forth. The head must be perfectly white, evenly marked all round, and not "slobbered;" from seven to ten flight feathers; must be white in each wing, and the tail, rump, thighs, and vent, must also be quite white and clear from foul feathers; the eyes, too, must be pearl, as a black eye is a great blemish.

(Eaton.)—I knew a Fancier, that after his death, one of his Baldhead hens, at auction, realised twenty-five pounds; and I knew another case of a Blue-beard—it was a bad colour—sooty blue or lead colour—that it could not be purchased for ten pounds; therefore, it does not follow that it is so much in feather, but the fact is, in the properties of carriage, head, beak, eye, &c., which it is useless to attempt to deny; therefore, it follows the Almond Tumbler and other Tumblers, equally possessing the five properties alike, differ in nothing but feather.

(Eaton, 196 A.)—Moore, whom I think the pre-eminent of all Fanciers, does not mention the Mottles, Baldheads, or Beards. As Mayor is the first I know to mention these Pigeons, I have taken his remarks as my text. Mayor calls it the Bald-pated Tumbler, as many other Fanciers do; I consider Baldhead the best name. I cannot find in Girtin a single line of original matter on the whole of Tumblers, but word for word as Mayor, which causes me still to think Girtin was the author of the work dedicated to Mr. John Mayor, 1765. Fanciers differ as regards the number of white feathers, in the flight of Baldheads and Beards, some arguing six in Beards and eight in Baldheads. Counting from the extremity of the outer wing, I believe the general opinion of Fanciers is, that Beards should have seven white feathers in the flight, and Baldheads ten, or at the turn of the flight feathers. There are Fanciers who argue that Baldheads and Beards should have ten aside as it is called, or white flight up to the turn feather. It is easy work in conversation for men to insist upon anything for argument sake, or theory; only, simply let these arguers of theory attempt to put it in practice, they will find out their mistake. I believe it easier to breed a Baldhead with ten, or at the turn of the flight, than a Beard with seven. It happens, unfortunately, in beautiful head and beak Baldheads or Beards, that they are slabbered or slobbered about the heads; it is different with the common flying Baldhead. I consider short-faced Baldheads one of the most difficult birds to breed, equally as difficult as Almonds or Black Mottles. It is a common thing now to give five gui-

neas for a pair of Baldheads or Beards ; I have known more money given for a Baldhead, which I have mentioned in another part of the Work, although Fanciers are asking from 15 to 20 guineas for a single bird. I believe in my conscience if 100 guineas were offered at this time, 1858, for an extra pair of very short-faced, good head and beak, good eyes, shape or carriage, well feathered Black-beards, they could not be obtained, simply owing to their not being in existence. Some Fanciers might differ from me by supposing or saying they have good Black-beards. It may be true ; they have good of a bad sort. I have observed in another part of the Work, Pigeon Fancying has its fashions—sometimes one variety, at other times other varieties. This is the cause of good Baldheads and Beards being so scarce, especially Black-beards. The London Fanciers are now directing their attention to Baldheads and Beards, owing to their scarcity. With their knowledge and judgment, I think they will breed them up in a very few years as good as ever, although it is a work of time. When I first came into the fancy, about the second pair of birds I bought were a decent pair of Black-beards. One of them had a white feather in the tail ; I bought them of a Fancier called "Curly-head." He said I must breed the white feather out. I went to work to the best of my judgment ; I thought nothing easier after "Curly-head" said I must breed it out. In the first nest I bred two young ones ; but what enlightened my darkness was, that instead of breeding one feather out of the pair, I bred two white feathers in the tail of each. I thought this breeding to feather with a vengeance. I had not by me at that time Mr. TONGE'S beautiful and patient advice—"The only encouragement left is to try again." At times, an Almond Fancier breeds among his Almonds an agate yellow or red, nearly a perfect Baldhead, good head and beak, with a splendid eye ; he now thinks he will astonish the Fanciers as regards Baldheads. He puts the best Baldhead he can obtain to it as a match ; the first season he is more fortunate than he could possibly have expected, and considers, having worked out the innoculation of the Almond, the next season he will have them to perfection. 'Tis said, "Blessed is the woman that expects nothing ; she shall not be disappointed." But here is a Fancier expecting much ; the produce of the second season astonishes him, although as he supposed, he had worked out the innoculation of the Almond, whether by Sarsaparilla or anything else. He fancies his young birds of the second season have got the small-pox, or something like as regards the feathers about the head, &c., or filled with feathers about the head where they are not wanted ; the fact is, the Almond feathers broke out like a fire, although it might have smouldered two or three seasons ; this is the cause of our seeing at times good head and beak Baldheads, but slobbered. My advice to Fanciers is, to take TONGE Pills, two at night and one in the morning—to "Try again." Almond Baldheads are very pretty, provided they are near the mark.

BEARD.

(MAYOR, 196 D., p. 74.)—There are some called blue or black-bearded, that is, either of those colours, having a long white spot from under the jaw and cheek, a little way down the throat, and regularly shaped, which has a very pretty effect as an ornament, and if they run clean in the flight and tail, as before mentioned in the Bald-pated Pigeon, they are accounted handsome.

(CORKER, 196 D.)—The Beard Tumbler is also a very pretty class of birds. They are black, blue, red, yellow, &c. The nearer these birds approach the Almond Tumbler in head, beak, eye, and carriage, the more they are esteemed ; they should have a streak of white under the beak or on the throat, with few feathers close to the under-chop of the same colour as the body, which is termed the beard. The pleasant faced Beard, ranks A 1 for flying.

(BRENT, 196 D.)—Bearded Tumblers are also very interesting Pigeons ; like the Baldheads they are of various colours, and must have clean white flights, tails, rumps, thighs, &c., and pearl eyes. They are dark above ; the upper mandible is dark ; but the lower should be white or flesh-coloured, and under the beak should be a triangular white patch, from which they derive their name. The Blue-bearded Tumblers are considered the best flyers ; but they are not now often seen of accurate markings, more attention being paid to breed them delicate and short-faced than to maintain a clear breast, clean thighs and rump, a fact I much regret. A small delicate bird with a tiny beak looks well in the show-pen, but very few of them are strong enough to take a

lofty flight of two or three hours, of rising above the clouds, and frequently lost to sight; such are the delights of a flying Fancier. I am aware that the head and beak Fanciers consider that everything else must give way before these points, and to a certain extent this is quite right; but those gentlemen that admire the short-faced Tumblers, will, while they enjoy their fancy, allow others to enjoy theirs, and not exclude, as some seem to wish, the flying birds from all exhibitions, for birds with such short beaks that they cannot rear their own young, or so delicate that they must not be trusted out, are certainly not fitted for lofty flights, but good Tumblers are rather scarce, they being either too delicate to fly, or too coarse to be admired—a medium sort is the best adapted for good flyers.

(Eaton, 196 E.—Long-faced Beards.)—While much has been, and more will be, written on the Short-faced Tumblers, which may meet the approbation of Short-faced Tumbler Fanciers, it would appear to me a very one-sided affair if I did not attempt to take any notice of the Long-faced Tumblers and Fanciers. They are very fashionable at this time, and are to be met with in great numbers about Regent-street, the Parks, the lounges of fashionable watering places, &c. I have no doubt a few could be met with at Bath and Cheltenham. It is reported the late — Muntz, Esq., M.P. for Birmingham, had a superior stud. 'Tis said, "Ladies are great admirers of them" —I believe only to giggle at or about them after they have passed. Strange to say, the more ugly they are the more they rivet attention; I am surprised how they pick up or feed, and that they are not completely starved. This accounts for their being so extremely long-faced or lantern-jawed, although heavily bearded. I have noticed before now, in a room where a grand show took place, although not any Beards in the pens, there has been some tremendous, ugly, very long-faced heavy Beards in the room. I have wondered (one name is as good as another for argument) how it were possible, if Mr. Smith wanted to smoke Mr. Southwood's Meerschaum pipe, he could get it into his mouth. You will observe, though strange—yet not more strange than true, there must have been a cross with the Baldhead and the Beard; although they are long-faced heavily bearded, they are almost perfectly bald-headed. Their feather is mostly grizzle, or a pepper and salt colour. I have heard of "Blue-beard." With regard to this Fancy, I cannot by any possibility think but there ought to be a distinction that only men in the army should be allowed to indulge in this Fancy. If others will indulge in this bearded Fancy, and take such immense pains in rearing and coaxing them, and consider them so luxurious, they ought to pay a heavy tax, like gentlemen paying the powder tax, which would enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take off the Income Tax and greatly benefit the revenue; or gentlemen only should rear them; for to see a long, thin-faced, rough, ugly beard, deep in mouth or ragged as a colt, what looks worse? You will perceive some of them have a kind of hood on the upper mandible. Some of the inexperienced Fanciers take them to be Rabbi's, Monks, or Priests; the experienced Fancier calls it *Moustache*. I find I have made a slight mistake here; I have been describing the long-faced walking or promenading Beard, instead of the long-faced flying Beard; therefore I must try back.

(Eaton, 196 E.)—Standards, among Gentlemen Pigeon Fanciers, are drawn from the greatest extremes, viz., heads perfectly round, others perfectly flat; beaks, short, fine, spindle, others long, thick, and deep; short neck, others long neck; eyes, pearl, others gravel, red, black, or bull-eyes; bodies, short as possible, others as long as possible; standing, low as possible; others standing high as possible; wattle, little as possible, others much as possible; head, short as possible, others long as possible; beaks, white, others black; small as possible, large as possible; smooth-headed and not smooth-headed; some feathers going the right way, others going the wrong way; some thin, others chubby; some no crops, others large crops as possible; some slender as possible in the girt or waist; Runts large as possible, to weigh heavy; some with white flights and tails, others with flights and tails to match bodies; some not tumbling enough, others tumbling too much; some not flying high enough, others flying out of sight; some bearded, others bald-headed. I have endeavoured to enumerate a few of the opposite extremes that the Gentlemen of the Pigeon Fancy are pleased to lay down as a standard to test Pigeons by. You can, at your leisure, look for plenty more. Fanciers do not and will not admire a medium standard for Pigeons, that is, half-and-half, which is neither "here nor there," but admire extremes. Many Fanciers greatly admire the Short-faced Beard; they would not think any the worse

of them provided they could obtain them half-an-inch ; while the Gentlemen of the Long-faced Flying Beard Fancy are desirous of obtaining their beards one inch and a half. If these two extremes, viz., the short-faced half-inch, and the long-faced one inch and a half, were added together, would make two inches, Equally divide the two inches would give you one inch faced birds, which some might call a medium. Don't deceive yourself. Do you suppose for a moment the Short or the Long-faced Fancier would accept this bird at a gift. Certainly not ; the Short-faced Fancier could see no beauty in it ; the Long-faced Fancier would swear their was no *use* in it ; the Fanciers combined would declare it neither "fit for use or ornament," whereas the Long-faced Beard will do tremendous work in flying. If what are called Pleasant Beards (three quarters of an inch) will do from Dover to London, 71 miles, the Long-faced (one inch and a half) will do twice the distance to Dover. I have often seen on grand show nights at the east end of London a pen of these extra Long-faced Beards ; I once saw at one of these shows a Beard that measured in the face one inch and a half, although one-inch and three-eighths is a good length. Less than one-inch and a quarter, the Gentlemen Long-faced Fanciers would not look at. Some of these birds are large and noble-looking, long from beak to tail, beautifully marked in feather, extremely long-flighted ; in fact, they look as much like gulls, comparatively, as Pigeons. The Fanciers of these Pigeons are very choice of them, and would require high prices for them, provided they would part with them. It therefore proves the standards of Pigeons are raised from extremes ; that middling or medium birds are not acceptable to Fanciers, viz., birds that are neither here nor there, or half-and-half birds. "Half-and-half" may be acceptable to weary travellers on a long dusty road, but not half-and-half Pigeons to Fanciers. The Beard is a sharpe, subtle, cunning Pigeon, much more so than the Baldhead, as Fanciers experience, after having kept them long enough in the traps to become acquinted with their new habitation and the locality. If they are good when let out, they mount the elements, look out for their homes ; and go home in good style. A Baldhead is more kind, and more likely to stop at a new habitation.

(Mayor, p. 65.)- It may not be amiss, before I conclude this head, to remark a distinction which the Society of Columbarians make between Pigeon Fanciers and Pigeon keepers, viz.—such gentlemen who keep good of the sort, whether they are Almond, black mottled, or yellow-mottled Tumblers, Carriers, Pouters, Horseman, Dragons, Leghorn or Spanish Runts, Jacobines, Barbs, Turbets, Owls, broad tailed Shakers, Nuns, Spots, Trumpeters, &c., are styled Fanciers ; on the contrary, those who keep trash are called Pigeon keepers, of which last denomination there are a surprising number. It is prodigiously amazing and unaccountable that any gentleman will bestow food upon such as are in reality not worth the tares they devour, and can be accounted for no other way than by supposing such gentlemen utterly unacquainted with the true properties and perfections of the several species they entertain, which, it must be confessed, is rather a harsh supposition (except they breed for the spit only, and even then their table might be as amply supplied by the better sort), the expense of keeping either being equal in every respect, the difference arising only in the purchase of one pair. Should any objection be made to the expense of the first purchase of the better sort, I answer it is infinitely cheaper to bestow four or five guineas on one pair of good birds (which in a short time would sufficiently stock a loft, and repay the purchase with great interest, Pouters or Leghorn Runts excepted, because, as before observed, they must not be bred in and in), than to begin with bad ones at eighteen pence a pair, the value of which can never be enhanced. I hope I need not here apologise, or be thought ill-natured by those gentlemen whose fancy may differ from mine, in giving my real sentiments and opinions so freely, as I have advanced nothing but matter of fact, and is the result of many years' experience, having been possessed (I believe I may venture to say, without vanity), of as good, if not the best in England, of Fancy Pigeons, besides toys of all kinds.

(Eaton, 196 E.)—A Fancier to whom I applied to aid and assist me with his remarks on the Baldhead and Beard, still persisted in playing his very old and favourite character of the "Dog in the Manger." He will not play the character of giving his experience to young and inexperienced Fanciers. On the contrary, you will perceive I am under great obligations to Mr. Corker, Mr. Tonge, and, though last not least, to Mr. Brent, for their kindness in aiding and assisting me.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA LABRONIS seu PISARUM.

The Leghorn Runt.

197.—The Leghorn Runt is a stately large Pigeon, seven inches or better in the legs, close feathered, and fast fleshed, extremely broad chested and very short in the back, he carries his tail, when he walks, somewhat turned up like a duck, but when he plays, he tucks it down ; his neck is longer than any other Pigeon, which he carries bending like a goose or a swan. He is goose headed, and his eye lies hollow in his head, with a thin skin round it much like the Dutch Tumbler, but broader, his beak is very short for so large a bird, with a small wattle on it, and the upper chap a little bending over the under.

198.—They are a very tender bird (*) and great care ought to be taken of their young ones. (†) I was offered seventeen shillings for a single cock, and Sir Dolbey Thomas would have given me a guinea and a half for the same bird. (‡) There are few true original ones of this breed in England ; and if matched to a Spanish Runt, they will breed a very large Pigeon, closer in flesh and feather than the Spanish Runt, and will breed much faster; (§) I have killed of their young ones, which when on the spit were full as large as middling spring fowls: (||) where note that these and all other Runts, increase in their bulk, till they are three or four years old.

(Eaton.)—The Almond, the black, red, and yellow-mottled, Baldhead and Beard Tumblers, of whatever coloured feather, provided it is not objectionable—the fact is, a Tumbler is a Tumbler for "All that and all that." All require to be equally good as touching the five properties as laid down by Fanciers. A white Short-faced Tumbler, possessing the five properties. with a pearl eye, would be considered a great curiosity and would realise a large sum of money. I would particularly call your attention to the five properties of the Tumbler, contained in my Almond Tumbler, Paragraph 413 to 436. In fact, the whole of my Almond Tumbler is applicable to to any other Tumbler, as touching the five properties, &c., &c. (with only the exception of the feather). For what, after all, is an Almond but a Tumbler? The cause of my writing so little in this place upon the Tumbler is, having written so fully at another part of the work on the Almond Tumbler and, for the last time, to rivet on your memory, is applicable to all Tumblers, feather excepted.

(* 198. Mayor, p. 109.)—But I must beg leave to dissent from that opinion of them, having kept them several winters in a little shed or room, one side of which was entirely open, and exposed to the easterly winds, with no other fence but a net which kept them confined.

(† 198. Mayor, p. 109.)—For they rear but few in the season if left to bring them up themselves ; therefore it would be most proper to shift their eggs under a Dragon or some other good nurse, in the same manner as mentioned of the Pouter ; remembering to give them a young one of some kind to feed off their soft meat ; if this method be pursued they will breed very well.

(‡ 198. Mayor, p. 109.)—I have known four guineas given for a pair of these birds.

(§ 198. Mayor, p. 109.)—I had a hen of the Leghorn breed that weighed two pounds two ounces, avoirdupois weight.

|| 198. Girtin, p. 83.—Some of this sort when brought to table have appeared as large as a pullet ; and a certain veteran Fancier of credit has assured us, that he killed a hen of the Leghorn breed that weighed two pounds and a half avoirdupois weight.

199.—As to their feather, they are various, but the best that I have seen were either black or red mottled.

200.—There is a vast difference in these birds, and I have seen very bad ones, that have been brought from Leghorn, little better than a common Runt; however this is the genuine true description of the Leghorn Runt, which is more valued than any other sort of Runts.

201.—This Pigeon was originally bred either at Pisæ in the Duke of Tuscany's dominions, or at Pisæ in Peloponesus, and from thence brought to Leghorn, and so transmitted to us; but I rather judge the latter, because it answers the description of the Pigeon which WILLOUGHBY in

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(198. EATON.)—I differ from Mr. MOORE as to their being a tender Pigeon; my experience has never taught me it. With regard to 17s., or that of a guinea and a half, for a single cock, offered by Sir DOLBEY THOMAS, it is at this time, comparatively speaking, not any price; far from being A 1 they are sold for five guineas per pair, and what is wanted for a pair that will carry off the prizes at the different county shows I should be afraid to tell you. I knew a pair sold for £25. I knew a gentleman who prided himself in keeping these large Pigeons, and would invite his friends to dine with him, at the same time soliciting each, as a favour, to do has he did—to eat one of his young Pigeons to begin with. As most gentlemen are, if not enthusiasts in Pigeons, great enthusiasts in the matter of Pigeon-pies, they readily gave consent, knowing the gentleman prided himself in breeding and keeping Pigeons. I have often witnessed what pleasure it gave him in relating the circumstance, in witnessing the fix in which it placed some of his friends, if the Pigeon only weighed 1½lbs. to 1¾lbs., not to mention about the crust—a pretty good tightener to begin with. I know a gentleman who informed me his Runts weighed 4lbs. 10oz. Being desirous to ascertain and lay before my readers, with truth, the greatest weight of a pair of these birds—(I think it right, nearly in all Fancies, there should be a prize for weight)—I took the liberty to solicit the favour of G. C. ADKINS, Esq., of West House, Edgbaston, near Birmingham, and E. A. LINGARD, Esq., of Birmingham, if they would inform me the greatest weights their runts ever weighed; I will give you their kind answers:—

(198. G. C. ADKINS.)—My largest pair of red Runts weighed just over 4½lbs. I believe they were Italian Runts, imported from France.

(198. E. A. LINGARD.)—In reply to yours respecting weight of Runts, my old birds have been as near 4¾lbs. as possible.

(198. EATON.)—From these weights, if I were a betting man, I should be sorry to make a considerable wager that a pair could not be produced that would weigh 5lbs., avoirdupois weight, 80oz. Although not a pair in this country, still I believe they could be obtained from abroad. I have heard from a gentleman who imported some, the expense to obtain and import them is very great.

(BRENT.)—The term "Runt" is applied to all large common Pigeons indiscriminately; but my present remarks pertain to the Fancy Runts, those giants of the Pigeon classes. The two sorts best known are the Italian and Spanish. Of the Italian varieties the Leghorn Runts are favourites. These Pigeons are usually of a red colour, and of a very large size; they have rather large beaks, frequently hooked, with a small wattle; their necks are long and bent; chests full and prominent; backs very broad; tails short and carried slightly elevated; their wings are short, and their legs long and stout; their feathers lie very close to the body, which causes to look smaller than they really are. Though their colour is generally red, very good ones are to be met white, buff, and parti-coloured. The Germans call these "Bagadotten Tauben," and they have another variety which they call "Hinckel," or "Florentinen Tauben," which are very heavy and as large as small fowls. They have long legs, but short beak and neck, and are usually blue-pied; the middle wing-feather is generally a double one; and they are considered excellent breeders.

his Ornithology calls Columba Turcica seu Persiea, the Turkish or Persian Pigeon.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA HISPANIÆ.

The Spanish Runt.

202.—This Pigeon, as may readily be perceived by its name, comes originally from Spain; and is the longest bodied of all Pigeons; I have seen them three and twenty inches long, from the Apex of the beak to the extremity of the tail, they are thick and short legged, loose feathered, and loose fleshed, and don't walk erect as the Leghorn Runt does.

203.—There are of all feathers in this kind of bird, but being short-legged, are apt to sit too heavy upon their eggs, and by that means break them, to prevent which inconvenience, the best way is to put chalk eggs under them, and set their eggs under a pair of smaller Runts or Powting-horseman, which are more kindly breeders; not forgetting to give your Spanish Runts a pair of young ones, at the time when they ought to hatch, that they may feed of their soft meat, which they always prepare against that time.

204.—I have seen a Pigeon very much resembling the Spanish Runt, with longer legs, but I rather take these Runts to come from Mexico, Peru, or some other parts of the Spanish West Indies.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA FRISLÆ.

The Friesland Runt.

205.—This Pigeon comes from Friesland, and is one of the larger

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(202. Brent.)—The Spanish Runt is now rarely seen in England—at least pure. Many Pigeons are shown under that name, but very unlike the true sort. They are large and loose-feathered, which makes them seem even larger than they are. They have short necks and legs, but very long wings and tail, which make them appear exceedingly long birds. The best I have seen were at St. Omer, France; their colour was black, slightly mottled with white; and they were called "Tigre Espagnol." Their wings are so very long that they rise with difficulty, but when once on the wing, they float along at ease, resembling in appearance a large sea-gull. About that part I have also seen a large red Pigeon with white shoulders, called "Tigre Rouge." But of all the Pigeons I have ever seen, none were so large as some white Runts that came from Belgium; they had large feathers on their feet; but as I cannot give their exact size and weight, I shall forbear to state my ideas.

(202. Brent.)—All the large Runts, from their scarcity, are very expensive; and from the same cause are bred so much in-and-in, that they are bad breeders. I am, however, of the opinion, that if their eggs were hatched under other sorts, and the young ones carefully matched, so as to avoid any relationship for a few generations, and then allowed plenty of exercise, and not too stimulating food, that they would be found as prolific and as good nurses as other kinds; but they must have houses and nest places adapted to their size. I think the trial is well worth making, as they would then prove a good addition to our list of large and useful poultry. It is a well known fact that as our domestic animals are bred in-and-in, in the same proportion do they degenerate, both in size and productiveness; and when over-stimulated, they become fat, unhealthy, and careless of their young. If these facts were attended to, I see no reason why our pigeon-houses should not be tenanted with large Runts instead of small; but I do not wish to encourage mongrelism, for by crossing kinds the respective properties of each would be lost. Adhere to one sort, but not to one family connexion. Match birds of the same sort together, but of different families—the wider the relationship the better; and I have no hesitation in saying, that in two or three generations your hopes would be realised.

Leghorn Runt.

Spanish-Runt.

sort of middle-sized Runts; its feathers stand all reverted, and I cannot see for what it can be admired except for its ugliness.

206.—There are other sorts of Runts, as the Roman Runt which is so big and heavy it can hardly fly; and the Smyrna Runt, which is middle-sized and feather-footed. I have seen the feathers growing on the outside of each foot, that they look as if they carried wings on their feet, I have measured some of these feathers which have been four inches and a half long; these birds are very apt to drag their eggs and young ones out of the nest, if not kept clean and dry. To these we may add the common Runt, which are kept purely for the dish, and generally in locker holes in inn yards or other places, and are well known to every body; they are good feeders and therefore good nurses for any of the more curious sorts of Pigeons.

207.—The following sorts of Pigeons are generally deemed and called Toys by the gentlemen of the Fancy.

COLUMBA MACULATA. *The Spot.*

208.—This Pigeon is about the size of a small Runt, and was first transmitted to us from Holland, but from whence the original of this breed came, I can't as yet learn; they have spot upon their heads, just above their beak, and from thence take their name, the feathers of the tail are of the same colour with the spot, and the rest of their body is all white. The spot and tail in some of these Pigeons is black, in others red, in others yellow; and I have been informed that there are some blue;

(Brent, 208.)--According to Mr. John Moore, 1735, this variety was brought here from Holland. They were frequently to be met with a few years back, but now seem to be getting scarce. They have a coloured spot on the head over the beak, and the tail is also of the same colour, either black, blue, red, or yellow; the whole of the rest of the plumage is white. They are clean-footed, and occasionally turned crowned, the upper mandible should be dark and the lower light; they are the size of the common dove-house Pigeons. They are active and field well; and are reported always to breed their young ones of the same colour. Their German name is "Bless," (Spot) or "Masken-Tauben," (masked Pigeons).

THE WHITE SPOT, OR MASKED PIGEON.

(Brent.)—This variety is very scarce in England, but common in Germany, where they are known as "Die Weiszblessige Taube," White Spotted Pigeon; or "Weisz-masken Taube," White Masked Pigeon. They are rather smaller and lighter made than the common dove-house Pigeons, also quicker and more active, and take willingly to the fields to cater for themselves; they are smooth-headed, and generally slightly feathered on the feet, the upper mandible is white, the lower dark, on the head, directly over the beak is an oval white spot, the tail also is white, the rest of the body being coloured, so that they are exactly opposite to the Spot Pigeons last described; some few, however, have white wing bars.

Herr Gottlob Neumeister enumerates five sub-varieties as follows:—

1. The Black—white spot, with and without white wing bars, and occasionally with white spangled shoulders.
2. The Blue—white spot, with the same markings as the above.
3. The Red—white spot, of a fine copper brown red, without wing bars.
4. The Yellow—white spot, their colour brown yellow; they also have no wing bars.
5. The Copper-shouldered—white spots, their ground colour is dark slaty black, the neck changes to shining olive-green, the shoulders of the wings are deep copper red, and the under parts of the body light ash grey.

they look pretty when they spread their tail and fly, and always breed their young ones of the same colour.

COLUMBA RIDENS. *The Laugher.*

209.—This Pigeon is about the size of a middling Runt, and much of the same make, and I am informed has a very bright pearl eye, almost white; as for its feather, it is red mottled; and some tell me they have seen blues. They are said to come from the Holy Land near Jerusalem. When a cock plays to his hen he has a hoarse coo, not unlike the gurgling of a bottle of water, when poured out, and then makes a noise, which very much imitates a soft laughter, and from thence this bird has its name.

COLUMBA TIBICEN. *The Trumpeter.*

210.—The Trumpeter is a bird much about the size of a Laugher, and very runtishly made; they are generally pearl-eyed, black-mottled, very feather-footed and legged, turn crowned like the Nun, and sometimes like the Finikin, but much larger, which I take to be the better sort, as being more melodious; but the best characteristic to know them, is a tuft of feathers growing at the root of the beak, and the larger this tuft is, the more they are esteemed. The reason of their name, is from their imitating the sound of a trumpet after playing; though I once

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209. (BRENT.)—Although I have never seen any of this kind of Pigeon, still I should deem my present series of papers on Pigeons incomplete did I not notice this variety, which I believe is brought from Arabia and the Holy Land, and derives its name from its strange coo, some part of which is thought to resemble laughter.

209. (BRENT.)—Mr. MOORE gives the following short description:—"This Pigeon is about the size of a middling Runt (*i. e.*, common Pigeon), and much of the same make, and has a very bright pearl eye, almost white; as for its feather, it is red mottled; and some tell me they have seen blue. They are said to have come from the Holy Land, near Jerusalem. When the cock plays to his hen, he has a hoarse coo, not unlike the gurgling of a bottle of water when poured out, and then makes a noise which very much imitates soft laughter, and from thence this bird has its name."

209. (BRENT.)—When a boy, I remember, my father was very desirous of obtaining some Laugher Pigeons, but was never successful, from which circumstance, and never having met with any myself, I should have concluded that they were extinct in England, were it not that in No. 283 of the "Cottage Gardener, March 2nd, 1854, I perceived an account of them as recent arrivals from the coasts of Arabia. They are described as being rather under the average size, with clean legs and beak rather hooked, varying in colour, being mostly blue, red, and white, blue pied or mottled, their various cries being certainly extraordinary; some of the notes are those of a loud coarse laugh, but when much alarmed—more like a hoarse clamour. The writer considers them to stand our climate tolerably well, and from their risibility if disturbed at night, being almost as good as a house dog.

209. (BRENT.)—P.S. The Germans call the common cage Dove or Collared Turtle "Die Lachtaube," *i. e.*, Laughing Pigeon or Dove. Since writing the above I have obtained a pair of Laugher Pigeons; in colour the cock is a chequered, the hen chequered and white, and they look like very common mongrels, more dove-house than anything else, from which they are not easily to be distinguished. There may, perhaps, be slight fullness of the throat, and the shanks are slightly feathered; there is not anything different about the beak; but the voice is very peculiar, quick, broken, and tremulous; it gives the idea of a stuttering Pigeon interrupted by hiccup, that is the inspiratory Ah! which causes them to be called Laughers.

enquired of a German, who brought Pigeons over to sell here, the reason of their being so called, and as he told me, he believed, was that they were first brought to Holland by a drummer or trumpeter, and so were called Trumpeters from him. Credat Judæus Appela, let who will swallow this gudgeon.

(210. BRENT.)—This variety of the domestic Pigeon came, I believe, originally from Egypt and Arabia ; they are distinguished from all others by the prolonged and gurgling coo, from which they derive their name of Trumpeter. In Germany they are called "Trommel Tauben," and in France "Pigeon Tambour, or "Glougou," names all expressive of their peculiar note, which is sustained frequently for several minutes, and somewhat resembles the distant rumbling of a drum, or the gurgling of water; the voice sounds like a combination of the word "Coo-coo-coo-oo-coo," rapidly repeated in a deep tone, interrupted by an occasional inspiratory "Ah!" Some are, however, more rapid and tremulous in their voice than others. Some naturalists consider them a very pure race, because if at all crossed they lose this distinctive coo. In addition to their coo, they have a peculiar tuft or turn of the feathers over the beak, which spreads in the form of a pink, and the finer and more evenly this spreads, the more they are admired. They are usually turn-crowned, but sometimes only point-headed ; they are well booted, or, as the Shanghae Fanciers style it, "Vulture-hocked," and their feet are covered with very long feathers ; the length of these feathers is also considered a great point ; they are stout thick-set birds, what the Fanciers call "runtish" made, of good size, and excellent breeders, but should be kept clean and dry. The long feathers on their feet often incommode their walking on rough ground. Their prevailing plumage is quite white, and of the white there seems to be two varieties, the one rather smaller, with white beak and dark eyes, heavily feathered and excellent vocalists ; the other rather larger, with slightly tinged beak, a pearl eye, and better turn over the beak and back of the head ; this last, I fancy, is not quite so musical, though generally more esteemed ; of the former variety I had some excellent birds bred from stock imported from Egypt, and though they were not quite so handsome as some, I never had but one other that could equal them in trumpeting a prolonged *finale*. The fancy plumage is the black mottle ; these, to be perfect, should have the twelve tail feathers, and the ten flight feathers in each wing, perfectly black, the rest of the body being white, regularly mottled with black feathers ; the eyes should be of a clear pearl colour, the turn of feathers over the beak and at the back of the head well developed, and the feet well feathered. There are also blacks, blues, and reds. The Germans have some they call "Bastard-Trommel Tauben," which are beautifully marked, but which rarely trumpeet well, if at all ; the German Fanciers generally think more of feather than of the other properties, which will account for the numerous varieties of toys which they cultivate. These cross-bred Trumpeters are variously marked, as reds or yellows, with clean white shoulders, also white birds with dark shoulders, like our Turbits, as black, blue, red, or yellow shouldered, the two former sometimes having white wing bars ; some of these cross-bred birds have no turn crown, and others have neither turns and yet trumpet very well ; these have various provincial names, as "rauchfuszige," "latschige," "strausz," "Russische," or "Altenburgische," *i.e.* rough-footed, slippered, tufted, Russian or Altenburg Pigeons.

(210. EATON.)—Some Fanciers greatly admire this bird ; I confess that I have seen some that are to be admired ; the best I have ever seen are the black mottled ones, as they are called ; they are differently marked in the body to a black mottled Tumbler. I think they might with equal propriety be called Black and White Mottle Trumpeters, being so gay in their body feathers, having as many white feathers in their body as black. The white Trumpeter is not so much admired as the mottled, for want of variety in the feather, and so easy to breed ; but where Fanciers want to breed to a particular feather, at the same time maintaining all the other grand properties, they experience the difficulty ; the fact is, London Fanciers do not admire the white whole feathered Pigeons from their want of variety ; besides the impossibility to keep them clean in London ; it is otherwise in the country ; although the London Fanciers do admire a perfect white short-faced Tumbler with a beautiful pearl eye, whenever they can see one. It appears, 123 years ago, when MOORE wrote his book, there

211.—The more salacious they are, the more they will trumpet; for which reason, if you have a mind to be often entertained with their melody, you must give them good store of hemp seed; otherwise they will seldom trumpet much, except in Spring, when they are naturally more salacious than usual.

COLUMBA CYPRIA CUCULLATA.

The Jacobine Pigeon.

212.—The Jacobine, or as it is vulgarly called for shortness, the Jack, is, if true, the smallest of all Pigeons, and the smaller still the better; It has a range of feathers inverted quite over the hinder part of the head, and reaching down on each side of the neck to the shoulders of the wings, which forms a kind of a fryer's hood; from hence this Pigeon has its name Jacobine, because the fathers of that order all wear hoods to cover their bald crowns; hence the upper part of this range of feathers is called the hood, and the more compact these feathers are, and the closer to the head, so much the more this bird is esteemed: The lower part of this range of feathers is called by us, the chain, but the Dutch call it the cravat, the feathers of this chain ought to be long and close, so that if you strain the neck a little, by taking hold of the bill, the two sides will lap over each other in some of the best; but there are but very few now to be found in England compleat. (*)

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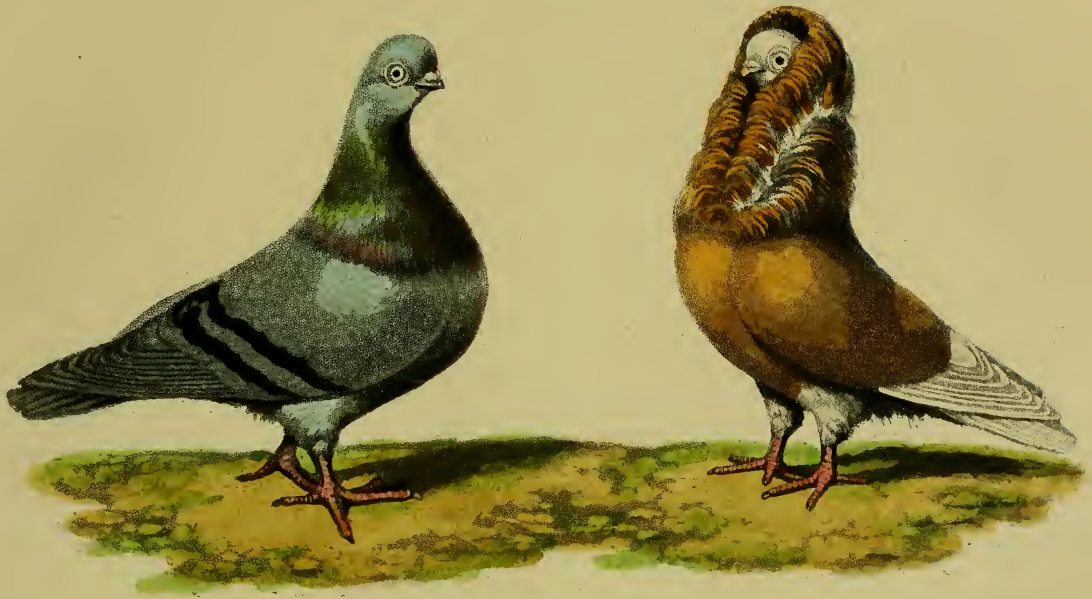
were gudgeons in the world; since then the flats have become more fashionable. Where a prize is awarded to the best four pens of different varieties, with the exception of Tumblers, Carriers, and Pouters, I do not find fault when the Trumpeter is put in as one of the varieties, owing to the difficulty to breed a good one, compared to the breeding of a Turbit, although a very pretty bird, and infinitely before a Fantail, unless it has beautiful lace feathers.

(* 212. MAYOR, p. 114.)—The breed of them having suffered much, in my opinion, in general, by a wrong method of propagating them, viz., that of intermixing the breed of the Ruff with them, in order to improve their chain by lengthening the feathers thereof, whereby the chain is considerably detrimented, by being looser and not so closely connected as it otherwise would have been, had the Jack and the Ruff been entirely kept separate. It has likewise caused the Jack to be bred larger, a longer beak and looser in its hood than it was originally; for the true Jack is a small bird, very little larger than a Tumbler, and the smaller it is the better.

(212. MAYOR, p. 115.)—The Pigeon dealers have a method of coaxing the hood and chain of this bird (as the term is), which they perform by clipping the feathers at the back part of the head and neck, and continually stroking the hood and chain forwards, which makes them advance further than they otherwise would; and sometimes they cut a piece of skin out between the throat and the chest, and sew it up again, by which means the chain is drawn closer. It should have a very small rise, &c.

(212. EATON.)—Writing on the Jacobine, MOORE says, if true, it is the smallest of all Pigeons. I have not any doubt but the Jack was an exceeding pretty Pigeon when MOORE wrote his Work, 123 years ago. You at times see a pretty pair of these birds by comparison with others that are called Jacobines (but neither more nor less than Capuchines or rough Ruffs). One thing is quite certain, the Jacobine has greatly degenerated, or the incomparable Tumbler, possessing the five properties, very much improved; 'tis certain one or the other. If you refer to MAYOR's Work, you will observe a beautiful print or likeness of a Jacobine, very likely what it was at



Blue Tumbler. *Jacobine.*

that time: at the same time, refer to the print of the Almond Tumbler in the same Work; it looks like a game cock making hasty strides after his hens. I cannot by any possibility think this a fair specimen of what an Almond Tumbler was in 1765; if so, and the two prints were shown to any one, and asked which he considered the most beautiful bird, the answer unquestionably would be the Jacobine. I confess I am at a loss to know what the print of the Almond Tumbler looks like. I consider the Jacobine, as a toy, should rank second toy; the Barb unquestionably the first from the difficulty of breeding a good one.

(212. BRENT.)—The aristocratic Jacobin of the old Pigeon Fanciers is not now to to be met with in England, but I believe may still be had in France; I enquired for them of the Pigeon dealer at St. Omer, but though he knew them he was unable to procure me any in that part. The French name, if I remember righ , was "Pigeon Normain Capucin."

(212. BRENT.)—The pure and high-bred Jacobin bears the same affinity to the Pigeon generally called a Jacobin, that the high-bred, short-faced Tumbler does to the common flying Tumbler; in fact, could we produce a short-faced, Baldhead Tumbler, with a close fitting hood and elegant chain, we should then have a perfect aristocratic Jacobin.

(212. BRENT.)—The common Jacobin Pigeons are supposed to come from Cyprus; they are well known on the Continent; the Germans call them "Zopf," "Perucken," or "Schleier-Tauben," as also "Kapuziner." The French know them by the name of "Pigeon Capucin."

(212. BRENT.)—They should have a rather short, stout beak and a pearl eye; the feathers at the back of the head and the sides of the neck, are reversed in their position, and form a compact hood and chain, reaching down to the bend of the wings; the more even and closer setting they are the more is the breed esteemed. The hood and chain constitute the chief characteristics of the breed, and give the bird an interesting appearance, forming a frill round the head in resemblance of Queen Bess. At the lower part of the chain the feathers turn out all round and expose a centre spot of white down.

(212. BRENT.)—Their colour is usually red, or black, bald-headed, that is with a red or black body, the head, tail, flight, rump, thighs, and vent, white; and to be perfect there should be no intermixture of colours, as dark feathers where they should be light, or *vice versa*, which would be considered a blemish, as also a bull (*i. e.* black) eye; there are also yellow and blue bald-headed Jacks, and some that are mottled on the wings, and I once saw a dun bald-headed Jack. Quite white are not uncommon, and the Germans have some quite black; they are mostly clean legged, but some are feather-footed.

(212. BRENT.)—The various names of this kind of Pigeon, as "Jacobin," "Normain," "Kapuziner," &c., are traceable to the resemblance of the white head of the bird enveloped in the dark hood, to the shaven crown of those ecclesiastics partially covered by the cowl. The high-bred Jacks are tender, and not the best of nurses, consequently the young should be raised under other sorts, like many other of the different kinds of Fancy Pigeons; their greater value being ample remuneration for the extra trouble. The commoner sorts are very fair breeders, but not being good flyers are not adapted to procure their living abroad, nor are they suited to contend for food among the other inhabitants of the poultry yard, as, from the hood and chain obstructing the backward vision, they are frequently pounced upon unawares by any malicious enemy. The Fancy demand pearl eyes in white, as well as Jacks of any other colour. The primitive colour of Jacobin or Cyprus Pigeons I believe to have been red or black, bald-headed, and the plumage is probably the effect of crossing, at some time, with other white Pigeons; by which means the dark eyes, by far too often seen in these pretty birds, is a circumstance to be accounted for, but a blemish not to be tolerated. The so-called Jacobins of the present time are comparatively but degenerate examples of the beautiful short-faced Jacks of former writers, and if any one wishes to excel in the reproduction of exquisite Jacobines, they must, by careful matching and in and in breeding, reduce the best of the present Jacks to the former standard, of excellence; a small Pigeon, short beak and close, compact

213.—The Jacobine ought to have a very short bill, the shorter the better, and a clean pearle eye.

214.—As for the feather, there are reds, yellows, blues, blacks, and mottles; but be the feather what it will, they ought to have a clean white head, white flight, and white tail.

215.—Of these Pigeons some are feather-legged and footed, others are not, and both sorts are equally esteemed, according to the various inclination of different fanciers. (*)

COLUMBA CUCULLATA MINOR. *The Capuchine.*

216.—This Pigeon is in shape and make very like the Jacobine, and has its name like the former from another set of hooded ecclesiastics.

217.—It is something larger in body than the Jack, its beak longer, it has a tolerable hood but no chain, it is in feather (†) and other properties the same. Some will assert it to be a distinct species, but I am more inclinable to imagine it is only a bastard breed from a Jacobine and another Pigeon; however, thus far I am sure, that a Jack and another will breed a bird so like it, as will puzzle the authors of this assertion to distinguish it, from what they call their separate species. (‡)

COLUMBA VESTALIS. *The Nun.*

218.—The Ruff should in proper order have been next inserted, as being nearest in kind to the two foregoing; but we choose rather to introduce the Nun in this place, that she might be as near as possible to those

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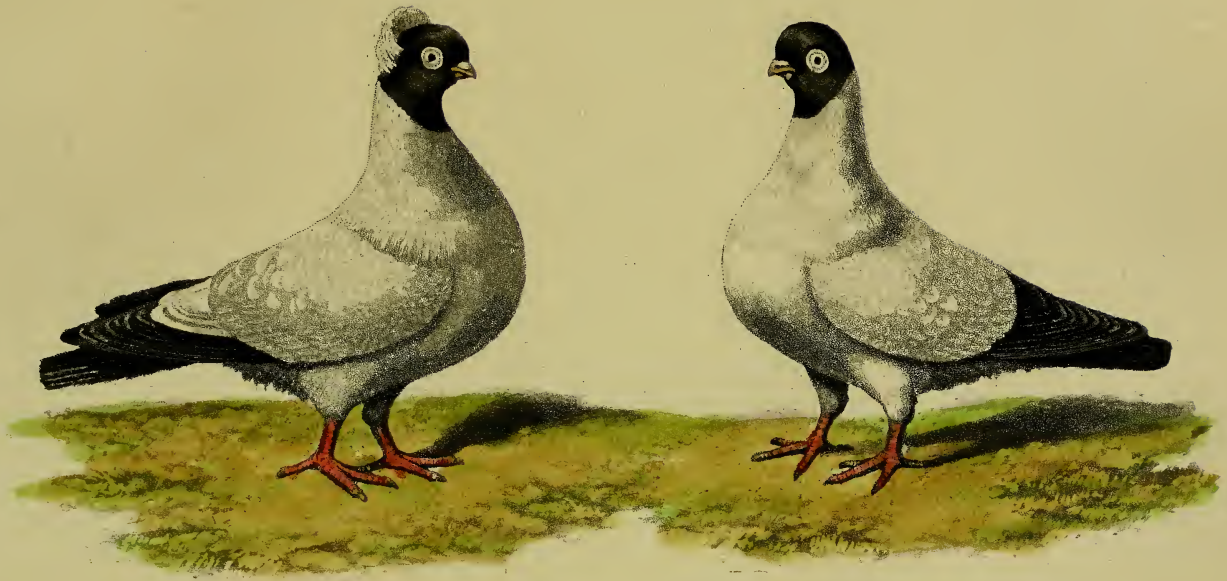
hood, with the chain reaching to the shoulders (perhaps a high admixture with a clean marked short-faced Baldheaded Tumbler, if judiciously used, would be advantageous in this matter); but as the in and in breeding, if carried to any extent, will weaken the birds and reduce their prolificness, the advantage derived must be in the enhanced value of the produce.

* 215. (Mayor p. 116.)—In France and Holland they have brought this species to much greater perfection than in England, for of late years they have been much neglected here, which I think the greater pity, as they are by far the most pleasing of any of the toy Pigeons whatever. A very ingenious gentleman of my acquaintance and an exceeding good Fancier, as well as a great Naturalist, being at Paris last summer, purchased two pairs of these birds, and charged himself with the trouble and care of bringing them over to England, which he effected in order to restore the true original breed of them, but was prevented in that, by a cat getting into his loft, and thereby destroying them all.

215. (Mayor, p. 117.)—The following being in itself so uncommon, and a Fact, I cannot help taking notice of it:—A person the other day passing through Fleet Street, seeing a print of this bird at a shop window, stopped to make his observations thereon, and having well viewed it he went in and purchased it, declaring to the seller, that he never saw a stronger likeness in his life, and, as for the wig, it was exactly the same he always wore, for he imagined it altogether a caricature of one of his intimate acquaintances; and the person of whom he bought it, did not think it necessary at that time to undeceive him.

(† 217. Mayor, p. 121.)—Its feather is various, sometimes blue, red, yellow, mottled, black, &c.; but should, like the Jack, always have a clean white head, white flight, and white tail, and a pearl eye.

(‡ 217. Mayor, p. 122.)—These sort are in very small esteem among Fanciers, though each particular species have their admirers.



Nun.

Helmet.

venerable sons of the church, who generally take a great delight to associate themselves with the female saints.

219.—The Nun therefore is a bird somewhat larger than a Jacobine, her plumage is very particular, and she seems entirely to take her name from it, her being as it were covered with a veil (*)

220.—Her body is all white, her head, tail, and six of her flight feathers ought to be entirely black, red, and yellow ; (†) and whatever feathers vary from this are said to be foul, though the best of them all will sometimes apt to breed a few foul feathers, and those that are but little so, though not so much valued, will often breed as clean-feathered birds as those that are not.

221.—A Nun ought likewise to be pearle-eyed, and to have a white hood or tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the head, which the larger it is, adds a considerable beauty to the bird.

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217. (BRENT.)—Capuchines are those that have only a hood and no chain, but such are of no value, being merely a cross of the former.

* 219. (MAYOR, p. 123.)—Is a bird that attracts the eye greatly, from the contrast in her plumage, which is very particular.

† 220. (MAYOR, p. 123.)—Namely, if her head be black, her tail and flight should be black likewise ; if her head be red, then her tail and flight should be red ; or if her head be yellow, her tail and flight should be also yellow ; and are accordingly called either red-headed Nuns, yellow-headed Nuns, &c. Should a black-headed Nun have a white or any other coloured feather in her head, except black, she would be called foul-headed ; or a white feather in her flight, she would be called foul-flighted, &c., and the same rule stands good in the red-headed or yellow-headed Nuns.

220. (BRENT.)—Of all the toy Pigeons, the Nun is perhaps the best known and most cultivated in England. It is much admired for its pretty appearance, and the contrast of its colours ; it is with me a very favourite pet, from the fact of its having been the very first I had to call my own ; nevertheless, I regret to see it take precedence, as it sometimes does at our shows, of such birds as Jacobins, Turbits, or Barbs, which have many properties, while the pretty Nun is truly a toy, having but one property, namely, feather.

220. (BRENT.)—The Nuns are about the size of common dove-house Pigeons, but stouter made, and rather more elegantly shaped ; the beaks are long and dove-shaped ; the eyes should be pearl-coloured, though occasionally gravel, but a black eye is a great fault. They are merry, active, and good breeders ; they are clean-footed, and being sharp flyers, are capable of finding a part of their food in the fields. Their plumage is beautifully white, the extremities only being coloured ; the crown of the head, face, and a small portion of the upper part of the throat is dark, and at the back of the head is a nice white turned crown, which gives the bird the appearance of wearing a dark veil and white hood, from which circumstance it derives the name of Nun. The twelve tail feathers, and a few of the tail-coverts, as also from seven to ten flight feathers in each pinion are dark of the same colour as the head, either black, blue, red, or yellow ; and they are designated black-headed or yellow-headed Nuns, as the case may be : but black-headed Nuns are by far the most common ; the body should be perfectly white, any dark or "foul" feathers among the white, or white where they should be black, are fatal blemishes ; the hood, too, should be perfectly white, so as to contrast well with the dark visage, and not lined with dark feathers, as is sometimes the case.

220. (BRENT.)—The German Nuns differ from the English in having white flights, and are there called " Bard Tauben," or Beard Pigeons.

COLUMBA GALETEA. *The Helmet.*

223.—This Pigeon is much about the size of a Nun, or somewhat bigger. The head, tail, and flight-feathers of the wings, are are always of one colour, as black, red, yellow; and I have been informed there are some blue, and all the rest of the body white, so that the chief difference between them and the Nun is, that they have no hood on the hinder part of the head, and are generally gravel-eyed.

224.—They are called Helmets from their heads being covered with a plumage which is distinct in colour from the body, and appears somewhat like a helmet to cover the head.

COLUMBA CUCULLATA RUDIS. *The Ruff.*

225.—This Pigeon is larger than the true original Jacobine, though in shape and make much the same. (*)

226.—It has a longer beak, the irides of the eyes in some are of a pearl-colour, in others of a gravel colour, the feathers of its hood and chain are much longer, though the chain does not come down so low to the shoulders of the wings, neither are they near so compact and close as the others, but are apt to blow about with every blast of wind, fall more backward off the head, and lie in a rough confused manner, whence the Pigeon has its name.

227.—The strain of Jacobines has been much vitiated by matching them to this Pigeon, in order to improve their chain by the length of the Ruff's feathers, but instead of this, the Jack is bred larger, longer beaked, looser in its hood and chain, and in short worsted in all its original properties.

COLUMBA IN GYRUM FLECTENS. *The Finnikin.*

228.—This Pigeon is in make and shape very like a common Runt,

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223. (BRENT.)—This toy, like the preceding, is evidently descended from a German race, namely, the "Kappen," or "Platten-Tummler," or "Burzel taube;" but, like the foregoing, their Tumbler properties have been disregarded, and the birds are rarely much thought of, though their pretty appearance ought to bring them some admirers; the upper mandible is dark, the lower light, the top of the head is coloured, either red or yellow, in a line from the beak through the eye, which gives the appearance of the bird's wearing a cap or helmet, whence the name; the tail also coloured the same as the head, and in those that have feathers on the feet, they are likewise coloured; the whole of the remainder of the plumage is spotless white.

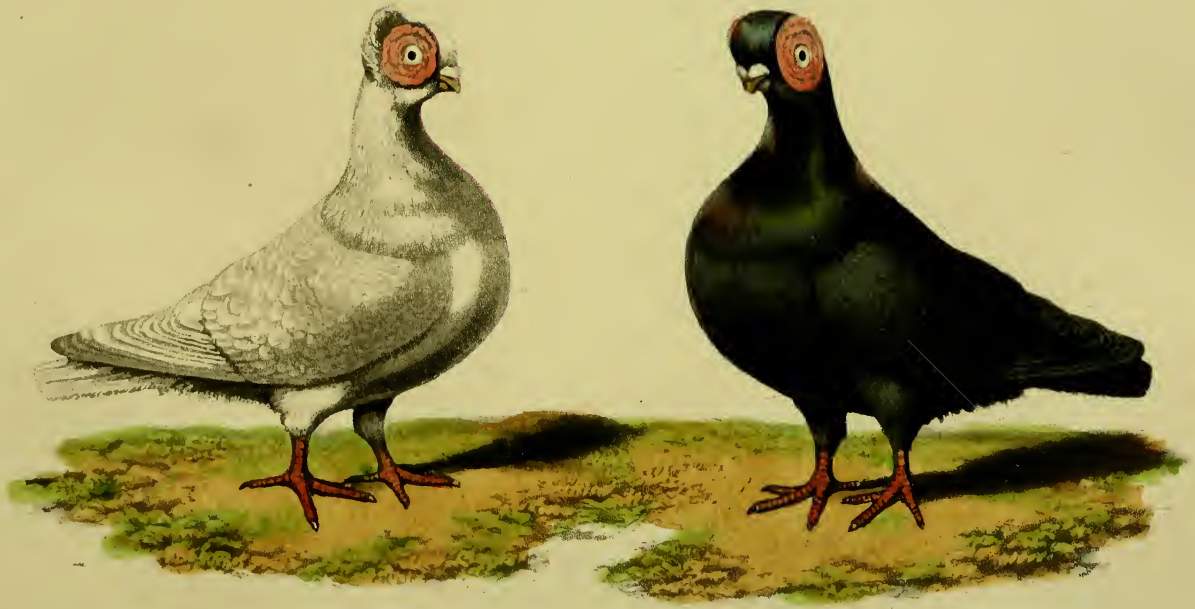
223. (BRENT.)—The old-fashioned Helmet Pigeon, with dark flights, as described by Mr. MOORE, 1735, I have never seen.

* 225. (MAYOR, p. 119.)—Insomuch that they have been frequently sold for such, to those who have not thoroughly understood the properties belonging to the Jack.

226. (MAYOR, p. 120.)—Their feather is also the same as that of the Jack; so that it is not so much to be wondered at, that those who were unacquainted with the properties of the true original Jack, should have a Ruff imposed upon them in its stead; but I hope we have sufficiently described the Ruff to be worse than the Jack in all its properties, so as to prevent future impositions of that kind.

226. (BRENT.)—The Ruff is a large variety of the Jacobin, and derives its name from the loose and disordered appearance of its hood and chain.

228. (BRENT.)—If the Trumpeter and Laughing Pigeons are curious on account



Mahomet. *Bärl.*

and much about the same size. The crown of its head is turned much after the manner of a snake's head; it is gravel-eyed and has a tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the crown, which runs down its back not unlike a horse's main? it is clean-footed and legged and always black, and blue pied. When it is salacious, it rises over its hen and turns round three or four times, flapping its wings, then reverses and turns as many the other way.

229.—Were a gentleman in the country to stock a dove-house with this sort of Pigeons, their whimsical gestures might engage the country people to imagine he kept an enchanted castle.

230.—Some people disapprove of this sort of Pigeons as apt to vitiate their other strains by making a hen squat by these antic gestures; but in fact they are no more dangerous that way than any other breed when salacious.

COLUMBA CIRCUMAGENS. *The Turner.*

231.—This Pigeon is in many respects like the Finnikin, except that when it is salacious and plays to the female it turns only one way, whereas the other turns both; it has no tuft on the hinder part of the head; neither is it snake-headed.

COLUMBA NUMIDICA. *The Barb, or Barbary Pigeon.*

232.—This Pigeon is in size somewhat larger than a Jacobine, it is called a Barb for shortness instead of the Barbary Pigeon, being originally brought from that country.

233.—It has a very short beak like a bull-finch, with a very small

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of their voice, so are these Pigeons from their very grotesque movements. There appear to be three varieties of this kind, called the Finnikin, the Turner, and the Smiter. I have seen some Pigeons of this sort in Germany, where they are called "Ring-Schlagen Tauben," *i. e.*, Ring-beating Pigeons, and apart from their strange movements and actions, I could see nothing else in them different to other common kinds. They are considered very productive; but I am not aware that any are now to be found in England. In Mr. MOORE'S Work I find the following description:—"The Finnikin is in make and shape like a common Runt and about the same size; the crown of the head is turned much after the manner of a snake's head; it is gravel-eyed. and has a tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the crown, which runs down its neck, not unlike a horse's mane: it is clean-footed and legged, and always black and blue pied. When it is salacious, it rises over its hen and turns round three or four times, flapping its wings, then reverses, and turns as many the other way. The Turner is in many respects like the Finnikin, except that it turns only one way, has no tufts on the hinder part of the head, and is not snake-headed." The Smiter is described by M. Boitard and M. Corbie, French writers, as follows:—They are a little stouter than the Tumblers, have a small sere round the eyes, which are black; the feet are feathered. Whatever the size of the place in which they are, they rise to the top, and come down again in circles, turning first one way and then the other, and they turn round in flying even in their dovecots: but they are quarrelsome and jealous. In plumage (they say) they are grey, with black marks on the wings, red, or pearly white, with a pure white horse-shoe mark on the back. They frequently break some of their wing feathers by the violence of their movements, which seem to resemble convulsions; and they are generally very productive.

233. (EATON.)—The Gentlemen of the Fancy agree that the Barb should take pre-

wattle, and a naked circle of tuberous red flesh round the eyes, whose irides are of a pearle colour, the broader and redder the flesh is, the more the bird is valued, though it is very narrow when the bird is young, and does not come to its full growth till they are four years old. Some of them have a tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the head, somewhat like a Finnikin, and others not.

234.—Mr. Willoughby, in his description of this bird, is guilty of a very great mistake, in imagining the tuberous flesh to be white in some birds of this kind, which it never is, though it will grow pale when the bird is sick; but when it recovers, always reassumes its wonted redness.

235.—Their original colour is either black or dun, though there are Pieds of both these feathers, but they are bred from the Barb and Mahomet, and are not so much valued.

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cedence, or rank first of all the toy Pigeons, from the great difficulty there is to breed a good one. It requires great judgment and care to breed a good Barb with a beautiful round, broad rose eye, as it is termed, of an equal thickness, like the beautiful eye of some Carriers: it is rarely you see a Barb with an eye as it ought to be, with the large tuberous red flesh round. The head should be extra broad and round; some Fanciers admire the tufted; others, smooth-headed. I think the tufted is the hardest to breed, and rather bordering on a property. Again, the Barb does not show its properties till it is four years' old. Taking all into consideration, it is my opinion the Barb should take precedence and rank A 1 of all toys, owing to the difficulty to breed a good one. It is not often you see a good one; therefore I refer you to the portrait of the Barb that will accompany the Work, for your observations and reflections. I cannot help thinking but the blacks look best, the contrast of the red eyes being greater. I cannot say I am an admires of a red eye in a white feathered bird.

233. (Brent.)—This variety derives its name from the part of Africa so called, it being reported that it was originally brought from thence. The Germans call it "Die Indische," or "Indianische-Taube." that is, Indian Pigeon. I frequently saw them in France, but their French name I have forgotten.

233. (Brent.)—They are generally smooth-headed, though some are turned-crowned, and a few have a frill on the chest like a Turbit; their beaks are short, thick, and surmounted by a small wattle; their irides should be a pearl colour, and they have a broad sere round the eyes of a bright red colour; the broader and evener this circle is the more they are esteemed.

233. (Brent.)—The smooth-headed blacks I consider the original and purest variety; but there are many other colours, as dun, white, red, yellow, blue, and, I believe, a few mealy; some are spotted, but the whole-coloured ones are most esteemed. The best I ever had were some red ones I procured at Calais. A gentleman at Calais had also an old black cock that he informed me was brought from the West Indies, and was twenty-years old; he was a fine old bird, though somewhat dull, most probably from his great age; the seres round his eyes were very large and pale, having much the appearance of a good Horseman, but the pale colour might be the effect of old age or ill-health. In young birds the sere is small; they are considered in perfection at four years old. I had some pure white, very good birds, and their red seres contrasted prettily against their beautiful white plumage.

233. (Brent.)—They are well known in England, but I think the English Fanciers breed them too high, more as one would wish to see a Tumbler in shape, so that their peculiar elongated shape is much shortened, if not altogether lost. They are light on the wing, but not strong flyers. The Continental Barbs are more to my Fancy as Barbs. I admire the short compact form of an Almond Tumbler *in that bird*, but *not* in a Barb. The Continental birds I consider of a more natural shape, somewhat peculiar to that variety; they are stouter necked, wider shouldered, and have rather

COLUMBA NUMIDICA ALBA. *The Mahomet.*

236.—This Pigeon is no more in reality than a white Barb, which makes the red tuberous flesh round the eyes look very beautiful. All that can further be added with regard to this Pigeon, is to assign the reason, why this name of Mahomet is given to it, which I take to be this.

237.—Mahomet, the imposter prophet of the Turkish religion, and author of the Alcoran, is reputed by some authors, and those of good note, as Scaliger, Grotius, and Sionita, to have made use of the following stratagem, to induce the credulous Arabians to believe that he conversed frequently with the Holy Spirit, and received from his mission as a prophet, and the new doctrines he was about to broach.

238.—This imposture he carried on in this manner; he took a young pigeon of this kind which we are now describing, and which by the immaculate whiteness of its plumage, was not an improper emblem of purity and the celestial dove: this bird he brought up by hand, and made it very tame and familiar, till at last he taught it to eat meat out of his ear, which he might easily do, especially if he fed it with rape or hemp seed there, which all pigeons are naturally fond of, till at last the Pigeon would come frequently to search for its food there. This bird he imposed upon the Arabians to be the Holy Ghost, whispering the dictates of the Almighty, and teaching him the precepts of his new law, and from hence, this bird is called after him by the name of Mahomet. (*)

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more elongated bodies: their pinion feathers are all rather long. I fear, however, it is rather difficult to describe their peculiar carriage.

233. (Brent.)—Note.—The Barb is the Polish Pigeon of some writers.

236. (Eaton).—I believe Moore is right in stating the Mahomet to be nothing more than a white Barb, which, he states, makes the red tuberous flesh round the eyes very beautiful. I do not fancy the red tuberous flesh round the eye on a white Barb any more than the wattle on a white Carrier or Horseman; it appears to me ferret-eyed or sore-eyed. I fancy Barbs and Carriers look best black; the contrast is greater with the red tuberous flesh or wattle. At a show, a good Fancier called my attention to a splendid pair of white Pouters; he asked me what I thought of them; I said—"A magnificent pair of birds;" he said they looked to him like a pair of plaster of Paris birds; he being a greater admirer of the pied Pouters. The pair I am writing of were sold in the room for nine pounds. 'Tis impossible we can account for our fancies; I think it is wisely ordered that we do not fancy all things alike; for instance, if all of us fancied necks, breasts, and scrags of mutton, who would eat the shoulders, legs, and loins? Again, if all fancied the clods, stickings, shins, and the "stare-ing quarter"—the head—answer me this question—Who would eat the roast beef, such as the ribs or sirloins? I repeat it is wisely ordered that we should differ in our fancies. I sincerely hope, "May the difference of opinion never lessen friendship" among true, honest, and good Fanciers.

* 238. (Mayor, p. 141.)—So far Mr. Moore; and I think he has extremely well accounted for its being so called; but it is the opinion of many Fanciers, that the bird called a Mahomet is nearly a cream coloured, with bars across the wings as black as ebony, the feathers very particular, being of two colours; the upper part or surface of them appearing of a cream, and underneath a kind of sooty colour, nearly approaching to black; as are likewise the flue-feathers, and even the skin, which I never observed in any other Pigeon but these; its size much like that of a Turbit, with a fine gullet, and, in lieu of a frill, the feathers rather appear like a seam: the head

239.—Since we are thus entered into the story of this Imposter, it may not be amiss to amuse our readers, with a stratagem an Arabian girl made use of to prove the truth of his pretended mission; the story as related by D. Prideaux in his life of Mahomet runs thus.

240.—Three years before his death, he led forth his army against Chaibar, a city inhabited by the Arabs of the Jewish religion, who being overthrown by him in battle, he besieged their city and took it by storm. And here those who are magnifiers of Ali, tell this miracle of him, that in the assault, Sampson like, he plucked up one of the gates of the city (which was of that weight saith Abul Feda, that eight other men could not move it), and held it before him for a shield to defend himself against the beseiged, till the city was taken. On Mahomet's entering the town, he took up his quarters in the house of Hareth, one of the principal inhabitants of the place; whose daughter Zainab making ready a shoulder of mutton for his supper, poisoned it; and here those who are for ascribing miracles to Mahomet, tells us that the shoulder of mutton spoke to him, and discovered that it was poisoned! but it seems if it did so, it was too late to do him any good. For Basher, one of his companions, falling on too greedily, to eat it, fell down dead on the place. And although Mahomet had not immediately the same fate, because not liking the taste, he spit out again what he had taken into his mouth, yet he let down enough to do his business; for he was never well after this supper, and at three years end died of it. The maid being asked why she did this, answered that she had a mind to make trial whether he were a prophet or no. For were he a prophet, said she, he could certainly know that the meat was poisoned; and therefore would receive no harm from it; but if he were not a prophet, she thought she should do the world good service in ridding it of so wicked a tyrant.

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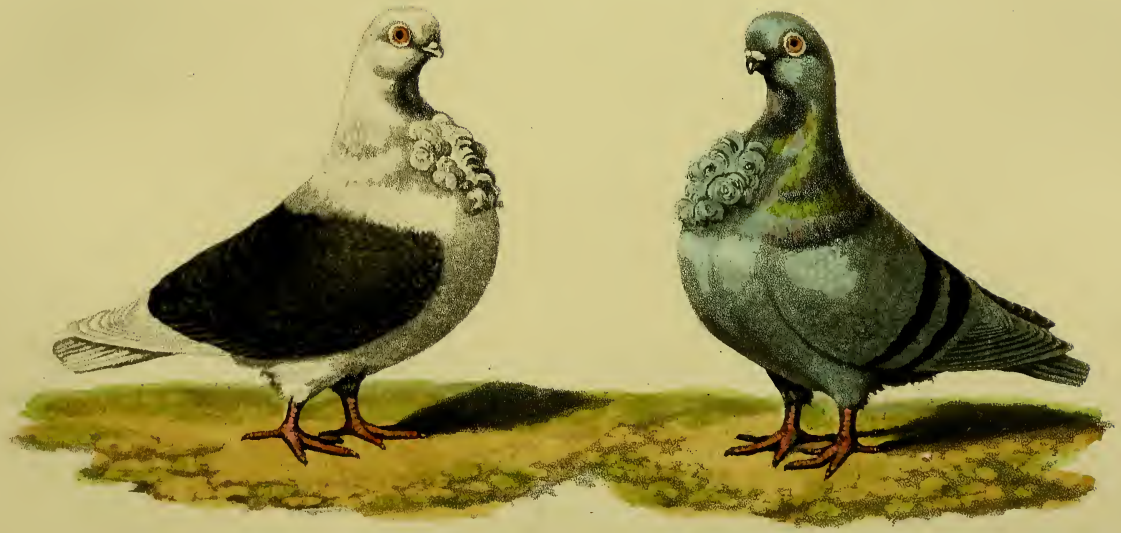
is short and inclined to be thick; hath an orange eye, and a small naked circle of black flesh round the same, and a beak resembling that of a bullfinch with a small black wattle on it.

(Mayor, p. 142.)—I must confess I rather think this bird a mixed strain between a Turbit and some other Pigeon.

238. (Brent.)—This is one of the varieties of Fancy Pigeons with which I have but a very slight acquaintance, having only once seen a pair at a London dealer's, and their appearance gave me the idea of a cross between an Owl and a Barb Pigeon; nevertheless, their seam, and black wattle, sere, and skin, I consider sufficient distinctive peculiarities to give them a place among Fancy Pigeons as a separate variety. Mr. Moore, in his Work, "Columbariam," printed in 1735 (and for which Pigeon Fancier are indebted to Mr. J. M. Eaton for the reprint), considers the Mahomet simply as a white Barb, and accounts for its name as being the same variety as that which Mahomet trained to peck in his ear, by which he induced his followers to believe the Holy Ghost ministered to him, so as to enable him to write the sacred Koran. It is very probable that the present relations existing between this country and the Sublime Porte may cause the introduction of other varieties of Pigeons from the East. I believe the Pigeon is considered a sacred bird among the Mahomedans, for which, perhaps, the following tradition may account:—Mahomet, while flying from his pursuers, hid himself in a tree or bush, and his enemies, who were in close pursuit, observing a Pigeon or Dove undisturbed on her nest, concluded that no one was there; thus Mahomet escaped.



Tur-bit. *Owl.*

241.—During his sickness, he much complained of the bit which he had taken at Chaibar, telling those that came to visit him, that he had felt the torments of it in his body ever since, and that at times it brought on him very dolorous pains, and that then it was going to break his very heart strings. And when among others, there came to see him the mother of Basher. who died on the spot, of that poison, he cried out, O mother of Basher, the veins of my heart are now breaking of the bit which I eat with your son at Chaibar: so that it seems notwithstanding the intimacy which he pretended with the angel Gabriel, and the continual revelations which he bragged that he received from him, he could not be preserved from thus perishing by the hands of a silly girl.

COLUMBA FIMBRIATA. *The Turbit.*

242.—The reason, why this pigeon is named by the English, I cannot by any means account for; the low Dutch call it cort-beke, (*) or short-bill, upon account of the shortness of its beak.

243.—It is a small Pigeon very little bigger than a Jacobine, its beak is very short like a partridge, and the shorter the better; it has a round

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* 242. (Girtin, p. 95.)—From corruption of the word cortbeck, or cortbete, as it is called by the Dutch, which word seems to be originally derived from the French court-bec, and signifies a short bill, for which this Pigeon is remarkable.

243. (Eaton.)—This is a remarkably neat and compact bird, and were it not that they breed so true to their markings as regards feather, much more would be thought of them. By selecting the best, and breeding from the best of their young, and working up to a high standard, I think the difficulty would not be insurmountable, that of placing a head on the Turbit equal to that on the Almond Tumbler. I am of opinion it would rank the fourth toy Pigeon, being a particularly neat, small and pleasing bird. The small amount of difficulty in breeding this Pigeon, owing to their breeding so true to their markings, with little judgment of the Fancier. Under these circumstances, I think the Trumpeter should rank before the Turbit. Should a Tumbler Fancier have brought the Tumbler to as near a state of perfection that he can proceed no further, and is desirous, for a change, to try his hand at something else, I would advise him to try all he knows of the five properties of the Tumbler, with the exception of feather, upon the pretty neat-shouldered Turbit; I think it would soon yield, and then would beyond all doubt rank the fourth Pigeon among toys.

243. (Brent.)—The English name of this Pigeon is not satisfactorily accounted for. Mr. L. A. Meall suggests its derivation from the Latin participle *turbatus*, as applicable to its frill or ruffle. To me it seems a corruption of the old English word Talbot, or shield-bearer, from the shield-like marks it bears on its wings.

243. (Brent.)— The Germans call them "Moven-Tauben," under which name both the Turbit and Owl Pigeons are included. The Turbit is separately known as "Schildchen," or "Lutticher-Schildchen," or "Brief-trager," which means the little shield of Liège, or Liège Letter-carrier, which latter designation is equally applicable to the Owl Pigeon. As I did not meet with any of this variety in France, I do not know their French name.

243. (Brent.)—The Turbits are a very pretty variety of Fancy Pigeons; they are small, plump, compact-made birds, of rounded form and engaging appearance; their beaks are short and thick, their eyes large and prominent, of a very dark brown or black colour; their heads broad and rather angular; they are usually smooth-crowned, though some are point-headed, and others have tolerable hoods; beneath the beak the skin is slightly extended, and a little resembling the dewlap of the bull. Taking off the abrupt or angular junction between the beak and the neck, this is called the gullet; on the lower part of the neck and crop a seam of feathers stands up and turns various

button head, and the feathers on the breast open and reflect both ways, standing out almost like fringe or the frill of a modern shirt; this is called the purle, and the more of it the bird has, the more it is admired.

244.—As for the feather, their tail and the back of the wings ought to be of one entire colour, as blue, black, red, yellow, dun and chequered;(*) the flight feathers and all the rest of the body should be white.(†) They are a very pretty light pigeon, and if used to fly when young, some of them make very good flyers. I have seen a flight of them kept by one GIRTON that would mount almost high as Tumblers. (‡)

245.—There are of this sort all white, black, and blue, which by a mistake are often called and taken for owls.

COLUMBA BUBO NOMINATA. *The Owl.*

246.—This Pigeon is in make and shape like the former, except that the upper chap of its beak is hooked over like an owl's, from whence it has its name.

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ways—this is called the purle, and the more the bird has of it the better; their feet are clean, and the tail is carried rather elevated. Their plumage is a beautiful white, relieved by dark wing shoulders, of various colours, from which they are called blue-shouldered or black shouldered Turbits, as the colour indicates. To be perfect in colour, the whole of that part of the wing should be coloured, without any white feathers, including the epaulet or scapular feathers; the flight-feathers of the wings, and the whole of the other parts, being an unspotted white.

243. (BRENT.)—The old Fanciers admired the black, blue, and dun-shouldered Turbits most, when they had tails of the same colour as their shoulders; but such birds are now rarely seen, though some Fanciers prize them highly, on account of their great scarcity, the other colours being invariably found to have white tails, which are now more general with all. Canterbury was, a few years back, noted for its Turbit Pigeons; they were bred there in the highest perfection; the colours of their shoulders are various, as yellow, red, copper, black, chequered, blue, silver, mealy, and dun. They are good flyers, light and active, as may be supposed from their German name of Liège postmen. I have flown a few with my Tumblers, with which they would soar: they are very good breeders and nurses, if not bred too high, which, however, is often the case, as smallness is considered a great beauty. Some eminent writers on natural history consider this variety as one of our purest races of Pigeons.

* 244. (MAYOR, p. 127.)—The red and yellow ones excepted, whose tails should be white, and those that are blue should have black bars across the wings.

† 244. (MAYOR, p. 128.)—And are called by the Fanciers (according to the colour they are of) as black-shouldered, yellow-shouldered, blue-shouldered Turbits, &c.

‡ 244. (GIRTIN, p. 96.)—A veteran Fancier of some note has informed us that he trained a flight of these birds, which, for their lofty soaring, seemed to dispute the palm with his Tumblers.

246. (MAYOR, p. 125.)—This bird, from its pleasing, meek, and innocent aspect, I should have described immediately after the Jacobine, it being, in my opinion, the next in point of beauty; but, as Mr. MOORE observes, "'Tis pity to separate those venerable sons of the clergy and the female saints;" therefore we have suffered them to follow each other for that reason only. It has a very round button head and gravel eye.

246. (EATON.)—I think the owl should rank the third as a toy. A first-rate Owl is a truly beautiful Pigeon; I never saw a dirty-feathered Owl in my experience. Their plumage is so truly beautiful and soft, it is with the utmost difficulty I know where to

247.—Its plumage (*) is always entirely white, blue, or black (†)

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draw the line as to whether they are blue or silver; the same difficulty often occur with reference to other Pigeons as regards colour (where to draw the line), whether as bird is a yellow or a red. Provided you showed an Owl, concealing the bars while showing the bird, and then asked its colour, the answer would be "silver;" but if you showed the bars, then it would be "blue." It would be as consistent to show a good sound blue Pouter, and, simply because it is kite-barred instead of black-barred, to call it a silver. I have heard Fanciers go so far, and say an Owl is not an Owl unless it has the beautiful, soft powder-blue in it; Who wants the blue in a white Owl? Besides, the Owl did not derive its name from feather.

246. (Brent.)—This Pigeon is frequently confused with the Turbit, and to an uninitiated eye the difference is not very perceptible. I think there are points of manners or natural disposition that make a greater distinction between them than mere form. Their name is derived from their wild and shy manner, and for their preference for secluded nesting places; also from their beak being rather hooked; thus, with their bolting eyes and wild look, slightly resembling an owl.

246. (Brent.)—The Owl differs from the Turbit in having a rounder head, a slighter and rather more hooked beak, a more prominent eye, of a pearl colour; the frill or purle is shorter, more compact and somewhat rose-shaped; the gullet is not quite so fully develeped.

246. (Brent.)—There are, or are reported to have been, whole-coloured Turbits, which I suppose have been incorporated with the present breed of Owls, which causes them to be less distinguishable.

246. (Brent.)—Their plumage is whole-coloured, usually blue, silver, or chequered, though there are some few black, white, and yellow, and I have seen some mottled; but none of these equal the first three colours for flying; the latter being mere fancy birds, while the former are flyers of considerable powers.

246. (Brent.)—The so-called Antwerp Carrier has frequently much of the Owl blood in it, and I am inclined to believe that the Owl was the Pigeon almost exclusively used in Belgium for flying, previous to the reclamation of the wild mealy Rock, which forms the basis of the true Antwerp Carrier.

246. (Brent.)—The blue Owls are very pretty, being of a clear sky blue, with black wing bars; they breed well, but unless rendered tame and sociable by familiarity and kind attention, are liable to fly off their nests if disturbed.

246. (Brent.)—The Germans call them "Moven," "Movchen," or "Lutticher-brief-trager."

246. (Brent.)—The French name, I think, is "La cravate," or "Pigeon à gorge frisée;" these names may also apply to the Turbit, but I am not sure.

246. (Brent.—In answer to "J. B. P.'s" question respecting the Owl Pigeon, I have only to say, the original Owls were undoubtedly smooth-headed, and either blue or silver coloured, consequently I should regard them as the purest. Turned crowns and other colours have been introduced by particular breeding, and have been perpetuated till such birds come to be considered as true-bred; but are esteemed more for variety and rarity than for purity.

* 247. (Mayor, p. 126.)—The feathers on the breast open and reflect both ways, expanding itself something like a rose, which is called the purle by some, and by others the frill, and the more the bird has of that the better, with a gullet reaching down from the beak to the frill.

† 247. (Mayor, p. 126.)—Or yellow, &c., except some that are chequered. The blue ones should have black bars across the wings, and the lighter they are in colour, particularly in the hackle, the more they are valued. These birds should have their breeding places made so that they may sit in private, as mentioned under the head of building a loft, for they are very wild, like the Carrier, and apt to fly off their eggs if in the least disturbed.

COLUMBA TREMULA LATICAUDA.

The Broad-tailed Shaker.

248.—This Pigeon has a beautiful, long, thin neck, which bends like the neck of a swan, leaning towards the back; it has a frequent tremulous motion, or shaking in the neck, especially when salacious, which is the reason why they are called Shakers. It has a full breast, a very short back, and a tail consisting of a great number of feathers, seldom less than four and twenty, which it spreads in a very elegant manner, like the tail of a turkey cock, and throws it up so much that the head and tail frequently meet.

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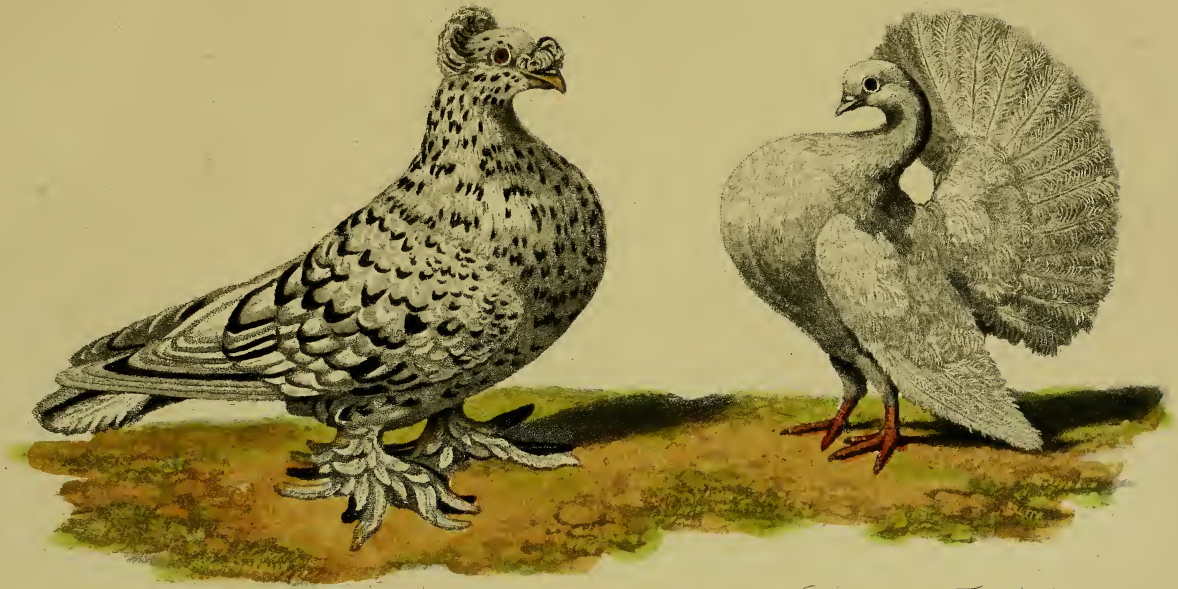
248. (Eaton.)—In all fancies and hobbies, I am certain there are out of these fancies or hobbies one class more fitting for Ladies than another, and the Gentlemen Fanciers ought to leave this class of toys entirely to the management of Ladies; with their judgment and superior taste, I should not be surprised, in a few years, to see the white Fantails, with the beautiful lace feathers, the fibres or web of which appear truly beautiful. I never saw but one pair; they were at the Crystal Palace Winter Show, 1858; I much admired them, as many others did, and considered how infinitely superior, by comparsion, they seemed to the others in feather. Under these circumstances, the Portrait of the Fantail that will accompany this Work will be a laced Fantail. I think it could be accomplished in a short time by a cross, by obtaining a first-rate Fantail and matching it over to a first-rate Lace Pigeon. It may be their young would be the Lace Narrow-tailed Shaker. It is possible the Almond Shaker, mentioned by Mayor, p. 131, was a first cross. I am given to understand Mr. Frank Redman bred and exhibited some extraordinary white lace Fantails; it is well worth trying. You may hear of 39 or even 44 feathers in the tail; it is infinitely better to hear of 36. It is bad having so many, the tails so heavy and crowded that the bird cannot show it to advantage.

248. (Brent.)—Having finished the high fancy and sagacious birds, it now remains for me to describe the remainder of Fancy Pigeons. This division is to some extent arbitrary, but I am compelled to adopt it, because I cannot find a better. The old Fanciers, with Mr. Moore at their head, have thrown all other Pigeons, without distinction, under the class of toys, but under the present arrangement it is my intention to include as Fancy Pigeons all such as have any distinct qualities or properties, exclusive of colour, by which they are known, and leaving in the list of toys those in which colour and markings are the principal if not the only property they possess. The first I shall mention under this section is the Fantail, or Broad-tailed Shaker. This Pigeon has a slender beak, a smooth head, a long, slender, and somewhat arched neck, a round full chest, a short back, and clean red feet; the eyes are always black or dark brown in the white variety; the tail is composed of a great many feathers; in most Pigeons it is composed of twelve feathers, but in the Fantail they vary from twenty to thirty. I have had beautiful carriage birds with twenty-one; the highest number I ever had was thirty-one; I have been informed they occasionally reach the extraordinary number of forty, but I am rather doubtful whether, in such cases, some of the shorter or under-tail feathers have not been included; nevertheless, it is possible that some exceptional birds may considerably exceed thirty. Although a great number of feathers is a desideratum, still, if the tail is too large, it becomes too heavy for the bird to carry properly, and carriage is the chief property of the Fantail. The head should be well thrown back, the chest raised high, the pinion feathers of the wings dropping below the tail. The feathers of the tail are disposed in an arched form, and the bird has scarcely any power to expand or contract them, but elevates the whole so high, that when excited the head and tail often meet; in the best carriaged birds I have sometimes seen the head pushed between the tail feathers. The long, slender neck, when the bird is excited, has a quick or vibratory motion, from which they derive the name of Shaker. They are not good flyers, consequently not adapted to find their living in the fields; their nest places should be roomy, that their tails may not be rubbed or broken, and also to prevent their falling into a bad habit of carrying their tails low,



Trumpeter.

Lace Fantail

249.—They are called by some Fan-tails, and I once saw one that had six and thirty feathers in its tail; but when they have so many feathers it is apt to make them lop their tails, and not let them meet with their head, which is a very great fault.

250.—They are most commonly all white, though I have seen both black, blue, red, and yellow pieds, but the white ones have generally the best carriage in their tail and head; there are two sorts of these broad-tailed shakers, the one having a neck much longer and more slender than the other, but the longest neck is the most beautiful and the most esteemed.

COLUMBA TREMULA ARCTICAUDA.

The Narrow-tailed Shaker.

251.—This Pigeon is reckoned by some a distinct species, though I am apt to believe it is only a bastard breed between the foregoing and some other bird. Its neck is shorter and thicker, its back longer, the feathers of its tail are not so much spread out, but fall as it were double, lying over one another, and the tail generally lops very much.

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which would spoil the best birds. I have found them very good breeders and careful nurses.

248. (Brent.)—Though white is the principal colour, and I believe the true one, there are also blacks, blues, ash-coloureds, and a few reds. The Germans call this Pigeon the "Pfauen-schwanz," or peacock-tail. The birds are frequently point-headed, that is, the feathers rise up at the back of the head in a peak; their necks are rather shorter and thicker than the English Fantails, which detracts something from their elegance, but they are good carriage birds, and have large tails; the colours, too, of some of their varieties are very pretty, such as black with white tails, and white with black tails; also white with black or blue shoulders.

248. (Brent.)—The French name for the Fantail is "Pigéon-paon," and their birds (at least the few I have seen) had beautiful necks, like the English variety. One peculiarity in the Fantail is the frequent appearance of double feathers in the tail, that is, two feathers united in one quill.

(Mayor, p. 131.)—Its feather varies as the former, but are generally white, though I have seen an Almond of this sort, which was purchased by a certain nobleman.

251. (Eaton.)—What folly to attempt to breed the Narrow-tailed Shaker, while you can equally as well breed the the Broad-tailed Shakers or Fantails. Wise men (screws) have asked the question, "How to keep barrels of small beer?" Fools have answered, "By placing a single barrel of strong beer by their sides." My young Fancier, I hope you will not attempt to breed the Narrow-tailed Shaker, while you have the same opportunity of breeding the Broad-tailed Shaker or Fantail, unless in endeavouring to obtain the Lace Fantail.

An Alphabetical Explanation of some of the less common Words made use of in the course of this Work,

A.

Abstemious, moderate, or temperate.
Adapted, made fit for.
Adepts, masters of, or proficients in.
Adulterated, counterfeited or made worse.
Agriculture, the art of husbandry, or improvement of land to make it fertile.
Alcoran, the Turks book of their law or gospel, written by the false prophet Mahomet.
Anus, the orifice, or hole of the fundament.
Apex, the point or top of anything.
Atmosphere, that part of the air next our earth which receives and contains the vapours and exhalations.

B.

Bashaw, a governor or magistrate of a particular place, or province among the Turks. Bazora, a city in Persia.

C.

Cataplasm, a poultice. Cephalæa, an obstinate headache.
Chalazæ, hail-stones.
Characteristic, a mark or sign.
Chronic, that which is of a long continuance, and not presently coming to a height.
Cognisance, knowledge or notice.
Coition, the intercourse between male and female.
Compact, close, well joined together.
Concurrence, meeting, or assistance.
Contiguous, close, touching, as when the surface of one body meets with another.
Contingency, casualty, or accident.
Contrast, a difference, or opposition of figure, which is reckoned beauty
Caustic, a composition for burning, or eating holes in the part to which it is applied.

D.

Dalliance, toying, or wantonness.
Diarrhæa, looseness
Dictates, precepts, or rules.
Dissolution, a dissolving or separation of the parts.
Diuretic, that provokes urine.
Dolorous, grievous, sad.

E.

Effœte, barren.
Emblem, a representation of some moral notion, by way of picture, or device.
Emergent, something of consequence that happens on a sudden.
Emission, sending forth, a casting out.
To Engender, to breed within, commonly spoken of animals, and not of human nature.
Erect, upright.
Eruption, an issuing, or breaking out.
Excrementitious, pertaining to the excrement, or whatever is evacuted, or cast out of the body.
Excrescency, superfluous flesh that grows to any part of the body.
Exhausted, drained or emptied.
External, outward.
Extremity, the edge, end, brink, or border of a thing.
To Extricate, to disentangle, or disengage.

F.

Fertility, fruitfulness.
Fœtus, the young of any animal perfectly formed.
Frail, the basket in whick raisins are brought over.
Furfuraceous, scurfy, from its resemblance to bran.

G.

Generation, a real action, whereby a living creature begets another like it of the same kind.
Genius, disposition, or inclination.
Genuine, natural, or real.
Genus, the kind.

I.

Immaculate, spotless, unspotted
Immense, unmeasurable, vast, prodigious.
Immerst, plunged or dipped into.
To Impregnate, to render prolific, or fit to bring forth.
Incident, liable to, anything that happens, or falls out.
Incubation, sitting a brood.
Incompatible, not suitable to, not agreeing with.
Inferior, lower in degree, worse.
Ingredient, the separate parts, that go to the making up a mixed body.
Injecting, casting or squirting in.
Innate, inbred, natural.
Instinct, that disposition, or natural sagacity in any creature, which by its peculiar formation it is naturally endowed with, by virtue whereof, they are enabled to provide for themselves, know what is good for them and are determined to preserve and propagate their species.

Intercepted, prevented.
Internal, inward.
Inverted, turned backward, or contrary way from the common custom.
Iris, the circle round the black spot, or pupil of the eye.
Irides, the plural number of the foregoing.

L.

Lieu, the place, room or stead of.

M.

Machine, an engine fitted for some peculiar purpose.
Magnitude, size, bulk, bigness.
Malady, a disease.
Malignity, hurtfulness, mischievous quality.
Matrix, that part of the womb wherein the fœtus, or the egg is conceived and nourished till the time of its delivery.
Megrims, a distemper which affects the temples or head.
Mission, a sending, or an authority to preach.

N.

Nitrous, having the quality of nitre.
Nutriment, nourishment or food.

O.

Oesophagus, the gullet, being a passage for the food, situate behind the windpipe.
Operation, a labouring or working.
Ornithology, a description of the several kinds and natures of birds.
Ossificated, turned to, or become bone.
Ovary, that part of the womb in which the eggs are contained, called by the fanciers, the egg bag.

P.

Perpendicular, directly upright.
Plastic virtue, a term invented by naturalists to express the faculty of generation.
Plumage, the colour and mixture of the feathers.
Pores, holes, or void spaces between the particles or smaller parts of matter.
Potent, powerful.
Potestates, or powers are the result of a combination or union of the essential oils with the spirit, wherein it is supposed are contained all the principal virtues.
Pressure, the pressing of the air by its gravity or weight.
Priority, being first in rank, order, or dignity.
Progeny, offspring, issue, or race.
Projecting, standing out.
Prolific, fruitful, apt to breed.
Propagation, the act of encreasing or multiply the kind.
Protuberant, bunching, or standing out.
Provocative, apt to provoke, or stir up.
Pustules, wheals or pimples full of matter.

R.

Reception, receiving.
Recipe, a prescription or bill, giving directions for preparing or compounding of a medicine.
Reflected, turned back.
Repository, a place to lay up anything.
Reservoir, a receiver to retain anything till wanted.
Restorative of a restoring or strengthening nature.
Reverses, turns backs.
Reverted, turn back.

S.

Sagacity, wisdom or cunning.
Salacious, wanton, rank.
Salaciousness, wantonness, or rankness.
Scrophula, the evil.
Seraglio, the palace of the grand Seignior at Constantinople, where he keeps his court, concubines, &c.
Species, a particular sort.
To Stagnate, to stand still, as water in a pool, without motion.
Subventaneous, addle.
Sustenance food, nourishment.
Symmetry, a due proportion, or uniformity of parts, in respect to the whole.

T.

Temperament, a proper mixture of the elements.
Tour, a turnabout.
Transmitted, sent over.
Tremulous, shaking or quavering.
Tuberous, full of knots, or small swellings.
Tumour, a rising or swelling in the body.

U.

Uterus, the womb.
Unctuous, oily, greasy.

V.

Vertigo, a giddiness or swimming in the head; an indisposition in the brain.
Virago, a hen that beats or fights with a cock, taking the offices of the male upon her.
Vital, belonging to, or supporting life.
Vitellary, the cluster of eggs in a hen, from their resemblance to a bunch of grapes.
Vitiated, corrupted, spoiled, made worse.

FINIS.

[AS REGARDS MR. MOORE'S WORK.]

THE LACE PIGEON.

251. (Mayor, p. 143.)—This bird is, I believe, originally bred in Holland, where, I am informed, there are great numbers ; though not one that I know of to be seen in England at present. It is in size rather less than a common Runt, and like it in shape and make ; though I once saw a Shaker of this kind ; their colour is white, and they are valued on account of their scarcity and the peculiarity of their feathers, the fibres or web of which appear disunited from each other throughout their whole plumage, and not in the least connected, as in common with all other Pigeons, where they form a smooth close feather.

251. (Eaton.)—I cannot say I admire this bird, for I cannot find any style in it. In shape it does not appear better than our common house Runts ; I have seen several of them but always white, their lace feathers lying so close to their bodies, do not appear so truly beautiful as the broad-tailed Fantail.

251. (Brent.)—This curious variety of domestic Pigeon is very scarce ; their chief peculiarity consists in the webs of their feathers being disunited, like the plumage of the silky fowls, and from which cause their powers of flight are much curtailed ; the few that I have seen have always been white, and had much the appearance of half-bred Fantails ; and I have read that in both France and Holland Fantails are to be met with, with this beautiful lacy or silky plumage. In the old Treatise on Pigeons, the plate of this variety represents a Pigeon of common shape and turned crown.

THE FRILL BACK.

252. (Mayor, p. 144.)—Is something less in size than a Dragoon, and in shape like the common Runt ; their colour generally (if not always) white ; and what is chiefly remarkable in them is, the turn of their feathers, which appear as if every one distinctly had been raised at the extremity with a small round pointed instrument, in such manner as to form a small cavity in each of them.

252. (Girtin, p. 107.)—Or, as if the bird had been under the hands of some of our modern hair-dressers, and had its plumage frizzed and curled at the ends. It is in size less than the common Runt, though very much like it in shape ; and its plumage is always white.

252. (Brent.)—This curious variety of Fancy Pigeon is very rare in England, though they are more frequently to be met with in Saxony. They are about the size and make of a dovehouse Pigeon, with a turned crown ; the plumage is white, and the eyes should be gravelly red ; their chief peculiarity consists in the feathers, each of which is raised at the extremity so as to form a small conical hollow, which gives the plumage the appearance of having been gofered or raised by a fine pair of curling tongs. They are light and quick in their flight, but are easily tamed. Mr. Moore also describes the Friesland Runt, which must not be confused with the Frill Back. "This Pigeon," he says, "comes from Friesland, and is one of the larger sort of middle-sized Runts ; its feathers stand all reverted." Most probably like the plumage of the frizzled fowls, which are also brought from Friesland.

THE SMITER.

253. (Girtin, p. 107.)—This Pigeon, in shape, make and diversity of plumage, nearly resembles the Tumbler, the size excepted, it being a much larger bird. The Smiter is supposed to be the same species that the Dutch call the Drager ; when it flies, it has a peculiar tremulous motion with its wings, and commonly rises in a circular manner, the male, for the generality, flying much higher than the female, and though it does not tumble, it has a particular manner of falling and flabbing its wings, with which it makes so loud a noise as to be heard at a great distance, which is frequently the cause of its shattering or breaking its quill-feathers.

THE CHINESE PIGEON.

254. (Girtin, p. 108.)—This beautiful little Pigeon is a native of Pekin, in China, and was imported into Europe in some of the Companies' ships ; it is only to be seen

in the collections of the rich and curious, who have always large cages, or a distinct aviary built on purpose for them. It is a very scarce and dear bird, and in our opinion one of the greatest curiosities of the Pigeon kind, therefore, for the satisfaction of our readers, we shall give a particular description of it.

254. (GIRTIN.)—This Pigeon in size is rather less than the common Swallow; the sides of the head are yellow, but the top and the space round the eyes are of an ash colour; it has a blueish ash-coloured beak, and the irides of its eyes are of a fine white; the extreme feathers on each side of the head and neck are red, and there are blue feathers about the rise of the wings; the hind part of the neck and back are brown, and the extremities of the feathers black; those on the shoulders are lighter, and variegated at the ends with black and white. The first and last covert feathers are black, but are white on their external edges; the long feathers of the wings are black, the edges of which are tipped with white; and the belly and breast are of a lovely pale rose colour. The tail, which is composed of twelve feathers, is a mixture of dusky and bright; the legs and feet are red, and the claws black.

PORCELAIN PIGEON.

255. (EATON.)—There are many other varieties of Pigeons, which MOORE, MAYOR, or GIRTIN do not mention, viz. the Magpie, the common Runt, the Archangel, the Porcelain, the Antwerps, &c., &c. The Magpie Pigeon resembles the Magpie in feather, from which it derives its name. The common Runts are as familiar with us as the House-Sparrow, which you will observe at a country inn on the road side, and kept on farms. It is somewhat different with the Archangel; they are not so common as the common Runts, but, as regards head and beak, I think not superior. What Fanciers intend doing with this bird I am at a loss to know; whether they intend to breed it down to the Tumbler's head and beak, or carry it out to the Carrier's head and beak, leaving it as they found it, is not progressing; as it is, it will scarce bear looking at, except it is for its feather, which are such quiet colours. With regard to Porcelain Pigeons, I never saw but one pair, black ground and most beautifully mottled; differently mottled to the black mottled Tumbler; they were in a basket, placed rather high and out of my reach, and, writing from memory, the Fancier has his work to do if he intends to make it a valuable bird and cause it to be admired by the gentlemen of the Fancy. The best thing I think he can aim at is to cross it with a Carrier, and by perseverance, in time, to obtain the Carrier with its beautiful formed, long-faced, straight, narrow head, with a dent in the centre, retaining the beautiful mottled plumage of the Porcelain. Unless this or something else is done with this bird, it will not be thought anything more of by good Fanciers than the Archangels. With regard to what there is in a name, I do not think it is correct to suppose, because a bird is called an Archangel, it must follow that it came from Russia; or because a Pigeon is called an Antwerp, it must of necessity be originally bred at Antwerp (more in its place when I come to give an account of the Antwerp Pigeon); for instance, if a captain of a vessel from California, or any of the new discoveries in South Australia, he being a little bit of a Fancier only about the edges, seeing Pigeons, or something he thought had a resemblance to Pigeons, but something rather peculiar to Pigeons, the captain considering the vast amount of trouble he has had in bringing this pair of birds from Australia, is determined to get rid of them on the first opportunity; his vessel arriving at the London ports, and taking them into the best markets he is aware of, (say Leadenhall for argument sake); when he has ascertained the highest price that the most respectable dealers will give him for this pair of birds, he hopes he will forgive himself if ever he attempts to bring another pair. This is pardonable in a sailor, who understands more of nautical matters than Pigeons; I consider it unpardonable in Fanciers, who know better, for attempting to prodouce "mongrels," which they ought to be ashamed of; and it is a question if they are not ashamed; in many of the nondescript mongrels we see are bred by Fanciers, as I observed before, they ought to be ashamed, which only bother betters Fanciers as to what class they belong or what name to call them. When they have accomplished their purpose of breeding an extra ugly mongrel, if hood-headed, I have no doubt they will name them after priests. I shall not be surprised if they were to call them Rabbi's, Cardinals, or Popes. Enough of writing on the follies of a few Fanciers, who know better; I will particularly call your attention,

by and bye, to an excellent account given by Mr. BRENT of upwards of twenty Native Doves and Foreign Pigeons, with other interesting matter connected with Pigeons, for which I feel grateful to him, at the same time I believe it will interest and delight you.

THE ANTWERP.

(256. EATON.)—With regard to the Antwerp, I am bound to give you all the information I possess, however little that may be; I believe very little was known in England until the great match, when Mr. FRANCIS REDMAN, of the Borough, but now of the Swiss Cottage, Regent's Park, an acknowledged good Fancier, who tossed (as it is called by Fanciers) from off London Bridge one hundred and ten of these birds (Antwerps), about one hundred reached home. There is not a doubt all of these birds had been severely trained by the Dutch fishermen, who bring their cargoes of fish, &c., to Billingsgate Market, who are in the habit of practising these sharp Antwerps. I believe if all their sharp birds (that is the proper name) were practised and sold to Fanciers, nine out of ten would return to their homes. Mr. GILES having returned from Antwerp, brought a lot of these Pigeons. I was the first that saw the Pigeons; they looked as though they could eat me. I picked fifteen out of the lot; one was a very strong, beautiful white Owl, who unfortunately got out of the pen and went through a pane of glass like a brick-bat. I informed GILES of it: his answer was, it would not stop till it reached Antwerp. I believe it, and so would you if you had seen how it took the pane of glass; the other fourteen Antwerps I kept in the loft and trap; these wild devils (if I may be permitted to use such a term), for six weeks, whenever I went up into the loft, were always in the trap, appearing as looking out for a chance, providing opportunity would favour them. Whenever I went up into the loft where these birds were, they came about my eyes like brick-bats; I often put on my spectacles for preservation, for fear of their cutting my eyes out of my head. I had enough of these birds confined, therefore I was determined they should fly. I went to work, as I supposed very cunning; ordered ample food and water to be placed in the loft, that would supply them the next day; my boy and self agreeing at dark to let down the traps, and not go to see till candle light next night. These Antwerp birds did fly with a vengeance; for at candle light next evening, when we came to look for the Antwerps, there were two stopped; I presume they were the most foolish. For instance, one of the lot of the celebrated match that were thrown up at London Bridge was caught in Kent-street, Borough. I am willing, if possible, to give you some little account of this useful bird. I went to Mr. GILES, who informed me a particular old acquaintance of his, a Yorkshireman, who went to Antwerp, married there, and kept an hotel; that he became an enthusiastic Pigeon Flyer, had a place as long as a short street Whenever GILES was at Antwerp he put up this hotel, and ascertained the way they obtained the Antwerp or sharp bird, was from the cross of their Owl and our English Dragon; there are other ways of breeding sharp or cunning birds, and that is by crossing the long-faced and long-flighted Beard over to the English Dragon, and their young over to the Owl. The Antwerp bird is such a marked bird; the more ugly it is the better they perform their work—that is, of Flying; they have a high head (not like the Carrier), at the same time mousey, with a down beak, like a man with a Roman nose; they are various colours. Some few of the Antwerps have a pure and clear white eye, not surpassed by any Pigeon we have. The Flying Fanciers of Antwerp care not a straw what colour the bird is, provided it will do execution in flying; it is their opinion that the gravel-coloured-eye bird will perform more execution than the beautiful clear white eye, which some of these birds have: there is an erroneous notion with some Fanciers, who assert it is not an Antwerp unless it has a pearl eye. I have no doubt you have heard that, on the Continent, the people take as deep interest in their extraordinary Flying Matches as people in this country take in horse racing. I have read of Pigeons doing two thousand miles; I do not believe all I read. When I first came into the Fancy, and looking out for short-faced birds, being at the late Mr. ATTWOOD'S, he in conversation with some of the Flying Fanciers, stated that Beards of five-eighths, was quite long enough to do Dover to London. I was pleased to hear this remark; I thought I had dropped into the right shop, should obtain some short-faced half-inch Almonds. I asked him if he had got some short-faced Almonds, he said could I not see them; I answered, No; I came out of the shop as I went in. A friend of mine

informed me of some Squeakers doing Newmarket to London ; I spoke to him on the subject, he admitted they had thrown a feather, and they were Grunters instead of Squeakers. Reading *Bell's Life*, *The Field*, and other papers, I often read of bets and matches at Birmingham, Sheffield, Yorkshire, Manchester, and other places, for a home and home match, four or five miles: the distance is nothing ; I admit the difference of a few seconds in which the winning bird does it. If you want a good home and home match, make a match from London and Birmingham, London and Sheffield, London and Manchester, or London and Liverpool ; this would be something like a homing match ; four or five miles is nothing, when you read the account of Beards of five-eighths doing Dover to London, or Grunters doing Newmarket to London ; every man has not the opportunities to train and practise his birds like others. I have known some most villainous things come to light in Fanciers trusting others to toss their birds. The late Mr. SPICER, who formerly kept the Peacock at Islington, had great facilities over others in tossing birds ; formerly the coaches to Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool, stopped at his house, and the coachmen and guards used to practise his birds for him ; still it is a great pity that these sharp, subtle, cunning birds, even if shopkeepers knew that one of these birds had performed a hundred miles, they would not give you more than sixpence or ninepence for it at most. I cannot help thinking it is very disheartening to any one who keeps these sagacious birds ; if I wanted to breed a cunning or sharp bird, I would get the best sky blue, with black bars across the flight, Dragon cock, and the best sky blue, with black bars across the flight, hen Owl, by this means you would get beautiful feathered sharp birds, if you get nothing else. It is possible you might obtain the white eye from the long-faced Beard ; one thing I am certain of, the Owl shews itself very prominent in these birds, although there are a wonderful many mealy feathered birds called Antwerps, some of them very pleasant to look at. I believe they are only half-bred birds, whereas, the genuine as I would call it, right or wrong, blue or chequered Antwerp, that looks volumes at you, is the bird that accomplishes the work.

PIGEON FLYING IN BELGIUM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POULTRY CHRONICLE.

257. (EATON.)—SIR,—I have taken the liberty of forwarding you accounts of the great flying match from Marseilles to Brussels. I believe there are many Pigeon Fanciers who read your valuable *Poultry Chronicle* who may not have seen the account, but who would feel deeply interested in it, particularly the Gentlemen of the Flying Fancy. For myself, I believe it is true. I have heard it said that Pigeons have done two thousand miles, which I do not believe, owing to the difficulty of practising them ; for, however well the birds are bred, they will not home without practising them. I have heard that Fanciers on the Continent take as deep an interest in their extraordinary birds and matches as some persons take in this country with their race horses and the Derby. What will our Brother Flying Fanciers in this country say to this homeing match ? Simply, "It is a fly with a vengeance."

258. (EATON.)—Should you, in your judgment, think it worth recording in your valuable *Poultry Chronicle*, I shall feel grateful. A Brother Fancier,

JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

7, Islington Green, London. N.

(Taken from a Weekly Paper.)

259.—"A sweepstakes for a fly of eight hundred miles (from Marseilles to Brussels) came of on Sunday, the 16th instant, but, owing to the extreme severity of the weather, did not prove as satisfactory as some previous ones. There were eighteen prizes, the first three of which were taken on the 19th, the others not until the 24th. The first prize was gained by M. Deheneffe, of Namur ; 2nd, by M. Simonis, of Liege ; 3rd, by J. Vanhaellen ; 4th, by M. Deheneffe, of Namur ; 5th, by M. Delorge, of Namur ; 6th, by M. Defoux, of Namur ; 7th, by do. ; 8th, by M. Chantraine, of Namur ; 9th, by M. Bridt, of Namur ; 10th, by M. Engelen, of Antwerp ; 11th, by M. Mitchell, of Kockelberg ; 12th, by M. Laurent, of Namur ; 13th, by M. Winterainken, of Antwerp ; 14th, by M. Deneyer, of Brussels ; 15th, by M. Putaert, of Molenbeck ; 16th, by M. A. Coopers, of Brussels ; 17th, by M. Decock, of Boom ;

and the 18th, by M. Mertens, of Antwerp. During the event it blue a perfect hurricane for a great portion of the time ; and the weather has been so bad throughout the entire season that many of the Fanciers have lost all their birds in training. From the foregoing it will be seen that the Namurians were particularly fortunate, having gained nearly half the prizes.

260. (BRENT.)—The innate propensity of all tame Pigeons to return to the place of their nativity, or their established home, has led man to make use of them as mediums of communication, and as some sorts are pre-eminently useful in this respect, they have been named Carrier Pigeons. Of these, the Antwerp, the English Carrier, Horseman, and Dragoon, the Tumbler, and the Owl, are the sorts most generally used. For the present, I will confine myself to a description of the Antwerp Carrier, a Pigeon of all others that has proved itself most useful for long journeys, having performed extraordinary distances.

261. (BRENT.)—The Antwerp Carrier derives its name from being bred in the city of that name in Belgium. In the ancient towers and lofty steeples of that venerable city nestle a small variety of Rock Pigeon, peculiar, I believe, to that part of the Continent ; in colour they are mealy or strawberry, the wings barred with a redder tint, as also the neck ; their beaks are dove-shaped, long and fine, the head round in front like that of the blue Rock ; the eyes bright and prominent, of a gravel or pale yellow colour. They are exceedingly shy and wild, it being almost impossible to entrap any of them ; young ones are, however, occasionally taken from the nest and reared. These and their progeny constitute the true Antwerp Carrier. But these wild Antwerps must not be confused with the wild, or rather the many escaped Pigeons, numbers of which frequent the public buildings in most large towns.

262. (BRENT.)—The few persons that breed this variety of Pigeon are very choice of them, and rarely part with any ; when, indeed, they do, it is generally those they can rely upon returning home.

263. (BRENT.)—The homing propensity of this valuable variety of Pigeons is so natural to them, that it is surprising what a small amount of training will make them proficients ; Squeakers will often return home from long distances, though they may have been kept in a considerable time. One marked peculiarity of the Antwerp is their flight, starting off in straight line when thrown up, then turning direct for home, not circling round as other Pigeons do before they start, and also the straggling appearance of the flight when turned out from their loft for exercise. They are good breeders at home, but if removed to a strange place it is almost impossible to get them to do so. So wild and restless are they, that if confined to an aviary for twelve months, most of them will be found in flying condition at the expiration of the time, and quite ready to perform the journey home, though it may be one hundred or two hundred miles ; whereas, were other Pigeons thus confined, most of them would be so fat and out of practice, that they would be quite fatigued with a few circles, and very few of what are commonly called Carrier Pigeons would have any inclination to leave after such a long confinement.

264. (BRENT.)—It may be wondered at that, as these Pigeons are so valuable, and also good breeders, they do not become more plentiful ; but this is to be accounted for in many ways, a few of which are as follow :—The various accidents to which Pigeons are liable, either in being sent or returning home from long journeys ; the great number of birds of prey which are everywhere to be met with on the Continent ; the continual disturbance to them while sitting to send them out for a match, for this Pigeon flying is carried to a great extent in Belgium, which causes those possessed of a pure strain to be very careful not to part from them, through the fear that they might, at some other time, unavoidably match against their own birds ; this will also, in a great measure, account for their rare appearance in England.

265. (BRENT.)—I am, however, inclined to believe that the Antwerp of which I have been speaking is comparatively a recent acquisition, perhaps within the last twenty or thirty years ; the Pigeon formerly in use in Belgium was, without doubt, the Owl. The short-faced Antwerps are a cross between the real Antwerp and the Owl Pigeon, which latter they frequently very much resemble, many of them having quite respectable frills and gullets. They are not quite so wild as the true sorts, but inherit much

of their excellent homing properties, and I have been informed of Squeakers doing London and Dover without training. This variety are very small, and in addition to the occasional frill and gullet, have very short beaks ; their colour is generally blue or mealy, sometimes chequered. Not being quite so intractable as the longer beaked ones, they may, with due care and a little patience, be settled in a new abode ; at any rate they will breed in a fresh loft, consequently are much better known in England.

266. (Brent.)—A cross-breed between the short-faced Antwerp and the Dragoon Pigeon, however, is the kind mostly used for carrying communications in England, and is considered more certain for short distances. The thorough-bred Antwerps, it is alleged, frequently overfly themselves in a ten or twelve miles' match ; these half-bred birds are considerably stouter than the Antwerps, have rather thick but not very long beaks, and but little wattle. They are the same colours as the short-faced Antwerps, excellent breeders and becoming very common.

267. (Brent.)—A great variety of mongrels and crosses are brought from Belgium under the title of Antwerps, many of which are the ugliest, most runtish-looking birds imaginable ; some of them, it is true, have a good deal of Antwerp blood in them, and will perform long journeys, but such are by no means desirable.

SKIN-NUM.

268. (Eaton.)—A cross between a Dragon, Antwerp, Tumbler, House Pigeon Runt ; in fact, any common Pigeon, and you are at a loss to know how they are bred, or what name to give them. It appears to me a bye-word given to nondescript birds, although some are pleasant to look at (these I consider the better sort of a bad lot) ; some of them will do good work as flying Pigeons. It would be the height of folly to attempt to give a portrait of these birds as they vary so in appearance.

269. (Brent.)—Skinnums are a cross between the common Tumblers and Dragoons. They are good flyers and much used in London, but in other respects no better than the common Pigeon, which they much resemble.

270. (Brent)—When it is desired to train Carriers, or any of the other varieties of flying Pigeons, the following is the most approved manner of procedure :—

271. (Brent.)—Having procured the sort or sorts required, the first thing is to get them settled or accustomed to their new abode ; this is best attained by procuring a few common Pigeons first, which are easily settled by keeping them in a loft for a week or a fortnight, and allowing them to go into the trap to look about. These may be frequently found useful while raising or first establishing a flight, and can then be got rid of. The better sorts are very difficult to settle in a new home, and the best are almost impossible to retain at large, though pairing them with mates already settled will sometimes induce them to remain ; therefore it will be found less troublesome to retain young birds —"Squeakers';" but be careful to have them quite young, for if of a good stock, and but once flown, they may prove treacherous. Perhaps it would be more successful, where it is desired to raise a good flight of first-rate birds, to procure old ones, and breed from them in a separate loft—never letting them out—or only into a lathwork or wire enclosure or trap, and then to draft the eggs or young ones into the loft of flyers. But the generality of Flying Pigeons will not require so much trouble. Young birds, and even old ones, are frequently to be settled at a fresh place with a little management, provided they have not been previously trained ; whereas, the best sorts will frequently return home on obtaining their liberty, though they have been kept up for twelve months or more, and some few even refuse to breed during their confinement. Very wild Pigeons are more difficult to reconcile than the tamer ones, though the wilder generally make the better homing birds.

272. (Brent.)—When settled, the Pigeons should be turned out, and put on the wing twice a day, once early in the morning, and again in the afternoon : when they are thus accustomed to daily exercise they will continue on the wing for an hour or two at a time, and after circling round their home a few times, will start off and take long circuits of a mile or two in extent, and then returning will take a tour in another direction, which is called "going an end," and is of great use to them, as well from the exercise it affords their wings, as in keeping them in remembrance of their homing faculties.

273. (Brent.)—Old birds it is not advisable to train, as they rarely make proficients, and in case of coming near their former home they will frequently stop there. Young ones should be trained, as soon as they fly strong, at home. The training consists in taking them a short distance from home, and turning them loose to find their way back, the direction being continually altered, and the distance increased. till they will at last perform very long journeys. But particular care must be taken to keep them in a condition for flying, strong, clean, and healthy, by means of good food and plenty of exercise, otherwise they may be one day missing, though they may have performed the same journey before. It must also be borne in mind that the Pigeons should be properly conveyed to the place of starting, not cramped, nor its plumage soiled; neither should a Pigeon be turned off with its crop too full, nor yet fasting, or it may become exhausted or faint. The wilder a Pigeon is the better chance I think it has of returning. It is generally considered that a cock homes quickest when driving to nest, and a hen when she is feeding squabs, such times being mostly preferred for flying night matches.

274. (Brent.)—The way of sending a letter is simply to write what it is desired to communicate on a piece of thin paper about three or four inches square, which, when rolled up, is laid between two of the tail feathers, where it is secured by means of a piece of fine binding wire, which is pushed through the shaft of one or both of the feathers; their vanes are then wrapped about the paper, which is fastened by twisting the wire round, so that the Pigeon carries it without being in the least inconvenienced in its flight. Some persons, I believe wind the paper round the leg and fasten it with worsted. As Pigeons on their journey are liable to many accidents, such as being injured by careless handling, fatigue, or being killed by guns or birds of prey, it is frequently found advisable to despatch several bearing the same communication, and if such is required to be kept secret, it may be written in private characters previously determined upon. Most Pigeons when tossed (let off) for homing circle round several times, rise a good height in the air, and then fly off in the direction of their home, the better ones make but a few turns, and the pure Antwerps dart off in a straight line, and then make but one turn for home.

275. (Brent.)—It is generally supposed that Pigeons find their way home by sight; this I consider an error, for it is impossible for a Pigeon to discern its home one or two hundred miles distant; nor do I shink the reasoning and calculating powers of Pigeons to be of such a high order as to allow of their remembering, and consequently flying, by waymarks as some have argued. I believe it to be a natural gift implanted in them by their Maker purposely to guide them to their homes. The dog, the bee, and many other animals have the same faculty.

276. (Brent).—My opinion is, that it is a natural attraction that draws them, and inclines them to take the right direction, and that by practice and cultivation it can be greatly increased and strengthened. I am also much inclined to believe that if Pigeons are well trained for several generations, the young ones have this faculty almost as it were by inheritance; some varieties have it in a higher degree than others, and some individuals are superior to others of the same variety. A high range of hills, or a fog, intervening between the bird and its home, may intercept or so interrupt this attraction or affinity as to weaken or alter its effect on the feelings or sensibilities of the Pigeon, which will explain the reason that Pigeons are sometimes lost under such circumstances, though London Pigeons, which are used to a foggy state of the atmosphere, are enabled to return through it, but it would then be impossible for them to see their home or waymarks at a very short distance; besides, Pigeons will home in in the dark, or else night matches could not be flown. I have had my own Dragons come home when it was dark when flown late; yet those who have witnessed the attempts of Pigeons to settle, when they have been disturbed at night, must acknowledge that though a Pigeon can fly in the dark, it cannot see much. Pigeons have been known to return to places where they had been kept, though they had no knowledge of the neighbourhood; neither do Pigeons search for a new home when theirs is, as frequently happens, entirely changed in appearance by being covered with snow, which they would be likely to do if sight was the medium through which they knew it. A few bad-flying fancy Pigeons, frightened by the, to them, novel appearance, may be lost, but that does not prove anything.

277. (Brent.)—Pigeons, while homing, will occasionally past their homes, which is a curious fact, termed "overflying themselves." The Antwerps, I have been informed, are liable to do so in short journeys. I have seen Pigeons in coming home fly past, then turn and descend, which could not happen if they flew by sight.

278. (Brent.)—Many other facts may be collected to prove that sight is not the main source by which Pigeons find their homes. Sight may assist them when near, and also in the manner of their flying high or low, to avoid objects and enemies, as well as in settling; otherwise I believe a Pigeon might be flown blindfolded. I feel convinced, and have no hesitation in saying, that the power the Pigeon has of returning home from a place many miles distant from where it has ever been before, is a natural attraction or affinity between the bird and its home, or, in other words, I consider that home is to the Pigeon what the north is to the magnet.

PIGEON FLYING IN DELHI.

279. We went up to the roof of the Masjid, and close beneath us saw a sport for which Delhi is famous. On the roof of several houses were men waving little flags to make their Pigeons fly, while elder men sat gravely by, smoking. A large hurdle was fixed upon for the Pigeons to alight upon. When they meet another flight in the air the two parties mingle, and one invariably carries away some from the other. Each flock then returns home, and the owner, who has gained some of his neighbour's birds, goes to him and threatens to sell them if they are not ransomed. It was very pretty to watch two, three, and sometimes four flocks of these beautiful birds, of all colours meeting, mingling, and then parting again. This is a favourite amusement of the old king, many of whose bird-cages were on the top of his hall of justice.—*Mrs. Mackenzie's Six Years in Delhi.*

J. G. KOHL'S RUSSIA.

280. Pigeons are sacred in the eyes of every Russian: and as no one would dare to harm them, they become so bold, that they walk about among a crowd in search of their food, and scarcely make way either for a carriage or a foot passenger. Nevertheless they are in a half-wild and neglected state, and build their nests chiefly about the roofs of the churches. They have their nests also under the roofs of the markets, and particularly among the columns of the Gosbinnoi Dvor, where the merchants in their hours of leisure take a delight in feeding and caressing them. In the inner courts of the houses of St. Petersburg there are always large holes or boxes that serve as receptacles for every kind of dirt and rubbish which it is thought desirable to remove to the outside of the house. About these filthy boxes there may at times be seen whole swarms of Pigeons, feeding on all kinds of garbage; and the only wonder is that the Russians should retain any affection for birds that degenerate so woefully in Russia, as to fight, like so many wolves, for putrid meat and fish entrails. Nevertheless, it is thought a species of sacrilege to kill a Pigeon. Boys may sometimes, indeed, be seen running about with sticks, to the end of which cords are fastened, and to the end of the cord a button or stone. This cord they throw dextrously round the neck of the Pigeons, as the South Americans throw their lasso round the neck of the ox. The Pigeons thus caught are sold to the Germans, who are said to convert the holy birds into heathenish ragouts, or to bake them into sacrilegious pies. Whole swarms of Pigeons are constantly fluttering about, the peaceful Russian being a great lover of this gentle bird. Each swarm knows it own roof, and the birds allow themselves to be caught without much difficulty when a bargain is about to be concluded. The Pigeon is never eaten by a Russian, who would hold it a sin to harm an animal in whose form the Holy Ghost is said to have manifested itself. Pigeons are bought, therefore, only as pets, to be fed and schooled by their masters. It is curious to see a Russian merchant directing the flight of his docile scholars. With a little flag fastenened to a long staff he conveys his signals to them, makes them at his will rise higher in the air, fly to the right or left, or drop to the ground as if struck by a bullet from a rifle.

281. (Eaton.)—It is surprising the knowledge and tactics that generals possess? at times they catch a Tartar When they are besieged, even in a strong fortress, where they cannot communicate, or receive communications from head quarters—'tis true they may have telegrams, 'tis equally true the enemy's generals may posses as great

generalship, by cutting off the telegrams, as they do, to the best of their judgment, cut off the springs or streams that supply the fortress. This could be obviated by the use of Pigeons. It is the last of my thoughts to endeavour to instruct able generals or brave officers, nevertheless, I think they have lost ground on the subject I am writing. You will perceive by MOORE, paragraphs 142 to 148, besides the accounts you have of Flying Pigeons, I cannot help thinking they would have been of infinite use in India, where such sad occurrences have taken place; it would have been a great blessing if the late brave Havelock and other brave officers had been able to carry on a correspondence with the Governor-General at Calcutta by Pigeons, when every other means were cut off. It might not be amiss to have some of these sharp Pigeons doing to and fro Dover Castle, the Horse Guards, Admiralty, &c.. The gentlemen of the turf and stock jobbers understand them. I have an account now lying before me of two Antwerp Pigeons winning the first prizes at Brussels, by performing and homing six hundred miles in twelve hours and forty minutes, nearly fifty miles per hour; at all events doing each mile in one minute and sixteen seconds, for six hundred consecutive miles. Who will doubt of some Pigeons doing a mile a minute. Gentlemen of the Flying Fancy "simply" think of this.

THE COLUMBARY;

BEING A SERIES OF PAPERS ON PIGEONS,

EXTRACTED FROM THE

POULTRY CHRONICLE AND FIELD NEWSPAPER.

(By Permission of the Author, Mr. B. P. BRENT.)

OUR NATIVE DOVES.

THE RING DOVE.

282. In England there are three varieties of the Dove that nestle in our woods—the Ring Dove, the Stock Dove, and the Turtle Dove. The first of these I will endeavour to describe. The Ring Dove, also known by the names of Chussut, Quest, or Great Wood Pigeon, is the largest, being considerably larger than any of our tame Pigeons. Their colour is an ashy blue, the chest inclining to pinky brown; the flight feathers are dusky slate colour, and the tail barred with black; a white ring nearly encircles the neck; a band of white skirts the lower edge of the wings when closed, or crosses it in the middle when expanded; and the under part of the body fades almost to white. The bill is long and of a yellowish white colour: the coverings of the nostrils are red; the iris of the eye is a clear pearl; the legs are short the toes are long, and of a dull red. They are arboreal in their habits, building in trees a nest of sticks; they lay two eggs at a time, which they rear like other Pigeons. They are of a roaming disposition, often exchanging their haunts; they feed on corn seeds, acorns, beech mast, ivy-berries, clover, turnips, and many other vegetables. If taken from the nest young they may be easily tamed, and will breed in confinement. The young ones are of a duller colour than the old birds, and do not have the white ring round the neck till after the first month. Having naturally no fixed abode, they cannot be domesticated; for when they obtain their liberty, they fly to the woods, and do not understand returning home.

283. I have for several seasons endeavoured to breed between the Ring Dove and Domestic Pigeon, but have not succeeded; nor am I aware that it has ever been accomplished. I have, however, at present, a hen Ring Dove paired with a cock Dragon Pigeon; but though they have built, laid, and sat, still I have had no produce, owing to the difference that exists in their marriage ceremonies, which each, according the tradition of their fathers, naturally adhere to. I hope, however, by trying the opposite sexes of each. to succeed in abtaining a cross.

THE STOCK DOVE.

248. This variety of Wood Pigeon is about the size of the common dovehouse or Rock Pigeon; they are arboreal in their habits, building in the thickest foliage, but prefer-

ing, where they can obtain it, a hole in the stock of an old tree; from which circumstance, it is supposed, they receive the name of Stock Dove, and not, as some persons think, because they are the originals of our domestic Pigeons, which is an error.

285. Their colour is a dull blue, with two dull black marks on the wings; the pinion feathers are also dull black, and the tail is barred with black near the extremity; the bill is dark in the young birds, but becomes whitish when they reach maturity; the covering of the nostrils is then pink inclining to a dark red; the iris of the eye is a dark brown, and the gloss on the neck is confined to a spot on each side. They are swift of flight and strong on the wing, and rather difficult to hold. They are a rather local bird, but very plentiful in this neighbourhood (Sevenoaks). I miss them in Autumn, but am not certain if their migration is total or only partial; they are often called Blue Rooks, though quite distinct from them.

286. They are easily tamed if taken young, but like the Ring Dove cannot be domesticated; when let out they fly off to the woods, only returning home for food, and their returns become less frequent till they learn to cater for themselves, when they return no more. I have tried to keep them several times at liberty; I succeeded with one for some time in Germany, but unfortunately it died, and once since I had one brought up by hand with a young Dragoon, that stayed some months, but left in the Autumn.

287. I find they pair easily with the tame Pigeons, if brought up young together, and that the union is to some extent fruitful; but, in nearly all cases the young ones die at about 10 days or a fortnight old, so that from many pairs of these hybrid young ones that I have had hatched, only two could I raise to maturity—the first a cock, bred from a cock Stock Dove and a hen Blue Dragoon, which was shot, I believe; the other a hen from a cock Blue Antwerp Carrier and a hen Stock Dove; she was a sharp flyer, coming home quicker than my Dragoons; I paired her with a young cock Dragoon, but she did not breed, nor do I think she would if I had been able to keep her longer; she partook much of the wild habits of her race, being constantly in the trees, whither she often decoyed her mate, and fearing they would be shot, I confined them in a spare Pigeon-loft, where I soon afterwards found her dead—but have her remains stuffed.

288. The play of both the Ring and Stock Doves is very peculiar; when courting the hen, they bow the head down, with a deep hollow "coo-o-ho," at the same time spreading and throwing up the tail. Had I ever been inclined to suppose the Wood Pigeons to be the parent stock of the tame Pigeons, my experience of them convinces me to the contrary.

THE TURTLE DOVE.

289. This is the smallest of our native Doves. They are arboreal in their habits, building lower than the two foregoing varieties, frequently in a small fir-tree or thick bush; their nest is composed of twigs and roots, and they lay two small white eggs. Their prevailing colour is a dull brown, the wings being of a reddish brown dappled with black, the pinion feathers are dull black; the tail is long in proportion to their size, the two centre feathers are brown, the rest dull black tipped with about an inch of white, the two exterior ones having the outer web also white, which gives them a pretty ring-tailed appearance when flying; the under parts of the body are much lighter, and on each side of the neck is a chequered patch of black, white, and gray. The iris of the eye is deep red; the bill is long and dull black; the feet are dull red.

290. They will breed in confinement occasionally; and I have been informed they can be partially domesticated, so as to be trusted with their liberty, of which fact I am not able to speak positively, though one of mine having escaped two or three times, each time remained about the premises, till hunger prompted her to come to me for food, when I was enabled to re-capture her. In their wild state they are migratory, coming over in the spring, and leaving again in autumn; and I have noticed that my young birds have been very restless in their cages at the time of the autumn migration. The young ones are duller coloured than the adults, and do not have the cheque on the side of the neck till the first moult. I once had a hybrid, between this sort and the tame Dove, Collared Turtle, or Laughing Dove, which was bred in an aviary, but was so exceedingly wild that I could do nothing with it, and it at last made its escape.

291. The Collared Turtle, or Laughing Dove, so frequently kept in cages, is not a native of England ; their colour is a pale brown or buff, with a black ring round the neck, the flight feathers are darker, and the tail feathers are tipped with white, like the preceding. There is also a quite white variety of this sort. These Doves are also arboreal, but if carefully managed, when first let out, may be easily kept at liberty. Still it must be borne in mind that a bird that has been long confined becomes bewildered on its first liberation, and soon drops from exhaustion, when it becomes an easy prey, or loses its home through having strayed too far.

292. The best food for these Doves is buckwheat, wheat, or canary-seed. They will, however, eat almost any seed, or small corn, but too much hempseed is very injurious, causing them from over-fatness to loose their feathers, or otherwise become unhealthy.

THE ROCK PIGEON.

293. The Rock Pigeon, or wild Blue Rock, is a bird of which almost every one has heard, nevertheless it is very scarce ; but at first starting it will be best to make it plain to my readers what Pigeon I mean, because two others are also commonly called Rocks. The Stock Dove, that builds in the stocks or boles of trees, is frequently mistaken for the Blue Rock, which it somewhat resembles, but from which it is quite distinct. There are three varieties of Doves to be found in our woods, namely, the Ring Dove, or Quest, the Stock Dove, and the Turtle Dove, but these are quite distinct in habits and manners from the Pigeon.

294. Again, the common Chequered ("Dappled") Dove House Pigeon, that generally peoples our Dove-cotes is frequently called a Rock, and should such be taken from the rocks, they are naturally supposed to be the true Rock Pigeon, for, in many parts of the country there are immense ferol or escaped flocks of these ; although, in every sense of the word, *wild*, are not the real Blue Rocks. Having thus far said what it is not, it now remains for me to say what the Rock is : it is a rather small Blue Pigeon, and very shy ; it builds its nest on cliffs, in the clefts of rocks, and caverns, and is generally supposed by naturalists to be the stock whence our tame Pigeons are derived. Their general plumage is blue, two black bars cross the wings, the tail is also barred with black near the end, the rump is white and the neck glossy—the beak is long, Dove-shaped, and of a dark horn colour ; the front of the head is rather full, the eye, round, prominent, and of a gravelly red colour, the neck is slender, and the feet red ; they are very shy, and shun the haunts of man. I have never seen any of them domesticated, but believe they might be, if taken young. The Rev. E. S. Dixon gives an instance of their being settled in an old Dove-cote, and further stated he had occasionally procured young ones, but that they always flew away when old enough ; they nestle in the most inaccessible rocks and cliffs, and I believe rarely produce but three pairs of young in a season ; they find their food abroad in the fields, in search of which they are said to take long journeys ; they feed on almost any sort of grain or seed ; they devour an immense quantity of the seeds of weeds, and they eat also some sorts of herbage.

295. A cross between the Blue Rock, and the common Blue Dragon Pigeon makes an excellent Pigeon for flying matches or performing long journeys ; but from the scarcity and wildness of the former, few persons have the opportunity of trying it.

WOOD PIGEONS.

296. I notice in the "Poultry Chronicle" of February 7th, that one of the subscribers appears to be a declared enemy of these handsome birds. I gather so from his statement, that 937 grains of wheat, besides 94 tares, were found in the crop of one bird. I do not for one moment deny that statement ; but I think that the writer would alter his opinion if he were more intimately acquainted with these birds, and he would find how very great is their utility at other periods of the year, *when they cannot* get at the corn.

297. Perhaps I cannot do better than refer your readers to "Mr. St. John's Wild Sports of the Highlands," a very nice edition of which is to be found in "Murray's Home and Colonial Library." They will there find a very good account of the habits of the Wood Pigeon ; and Mr. St. John particularly mentions his being spectator (with

an Agricultural friend) of an immense flock of Wood Pigeons, busily engaged (apparently on a field of young clover, which had the last season been under barley. Mr. Agriculturist asks, "You constantly say that every bird does more good than harm; what good are those birds doing to my young clover?" On this, in furtherance of his favourite axiom, "that every wild animal is of service to us," Mr. St. John determined to shoot some to see what they were actually feeding on. He shot eight, and on examination found that every bird's crop was as full as it could hold of two of the worst weeds in the country, *the wild mustard, and the ragweed*, which they had found remaining on the surface of the ground; the plants ripening and dropping their seeds before the corn is cut.

298. Now no amount of *human* labour and search could have collected on the same ground, at that time of the year, as much of these seeds as was consumed by each of these five or six hundred Wood Pigeons daily, for two or three weeks together. You very justly ask the question, "Where did the Pigeon that was shot in the neighbourhood of Canterbury get the corn, as Pigeons do not scratch?" The corn she eat would have been wasted, and it seems hard not to allow that which would have been food for other, "and perhaps worse" animals, to be eaten by a bird which is so useful, at other times, as the Wood Pigeon. I hope your correspondent will not become an advocate for the annihilation of these birds; but rather, when he understands them more, do all he can to preserve them in his neighbourhood.

THE DOVE-HOUSE PIGEON.

299. This Pigeon is also known by the name of the common Dove-Cot Pigeon, and is the commonest and most extensively diffused of all the tribe; they are to be met with in immense flocks peopling most of our Dove-cots, vast numbers are also to be found in every country of Europe; I have read they are plentiful in India, and have been informed they are also to be seen on the rocks about Sydney, Australia; most probably the descendants of escaped birds taken there by emigrants.

300. In many parts of England large numbers of these Pigeons may be found in a wild state inhabiting rocks, ruins, or located in steeples or towers of our churches and other buildings; which flocks are continually replenished by numbers of our tame Pigeons that loose their homes; and this will also account for the variations in colour that so frequently occur, even in what might otherwise be considered Wild Pigeons; indeed it would be very difficult to say if these Pigeons are indigenous wild birds, or only escaped or ferol.

301. Their colour is what is termed chequered or dappled, that is, they are of a slaty black colour, chequered or dappled with blue on the wing coverts, and frequently there is a brownish mark on the secondary wing feathers; the rump is whitish, the tail is rather short, tipped with black, the external feathers having a white margin, and the under parts of the body lighter, the neck feathers glossed with purple and green; the beak is long, slender, and dark horn colour, the eye gravelly red; the feet red; but in the young blackish.

302. They are rather stouter and plumper made than the Wild Blue Rock Pigeon, and much more familiar; they are excellent breeders, raising many pairs of young in a season, and though wild and fond of liberty, may be rendered very tame and docile.

303. They are capable of finding their own living in the fields, where they do untold good by devouring the seeds of many weeds that they find on the ground, they also eat many sorts of vegetables and green food that they find abroad; but the good they may contribute is little known, and they are looked on by many farmers as depredators. Doubtless they may occasionally do some harm; it must, however, be remembered that the Pigeon's bill is not made for digging, nor his feet for scratching. Thus he can, at most, only pick up the grain and seeds that are improperly covered, or lie scattered on the surface, and which could not be gathered up. Some persons suppose that they feed entirely on corn, and think, if a Pigeon one day eats a certain quantity of grain, that he is to do so every day, and thus they reckon up a large supposed consumption; but seed-time and harvest do not last all the year, and even supposing they do some trifling amount of damage,—that is to say, suppose they eat some corn that might have fed the rooks, pheasants, or other birds (for very little of this corn would grow), is not the damage compensated by the good they perform in eating the seeds of weeds, and,

at least, the dung from a Dove-cot should not be forgotten on their side. I have been told they do much damage in a pea-field, but I am at a loss to discover what, seeing they do not shell the peas, and though they may fill their crops, it is from those that fall out by the splitting and curling up of some pods before the majority are ripe enough to harvest; thus the only harm they do appears to be robbing the pigs and poultry that might be turned into the gratton.

304. The Dove-House Pigeon, and indeed all the mongrels or small runts, are very prolific. All Pigeons are monogamous; each cock selects his mate, and generally remains constant to her for their joint lives, unless age or sickness cool their affection. The Pigeon, when paired, seek out a nest place, where they coo to each other; the cock then proceeds to fetch the materials for the nest, which the hen arranges to her fancy; fine twigs are mostly preferred, but they will also use straw, or even hay, if the others are not handy. About a fortnight after pairing, the hen usually lays her first egg, about four o'clock in the afternoon, over which they usually keep guard; missing a day, she lays her second egg about noon, and then commences the proper incubation.

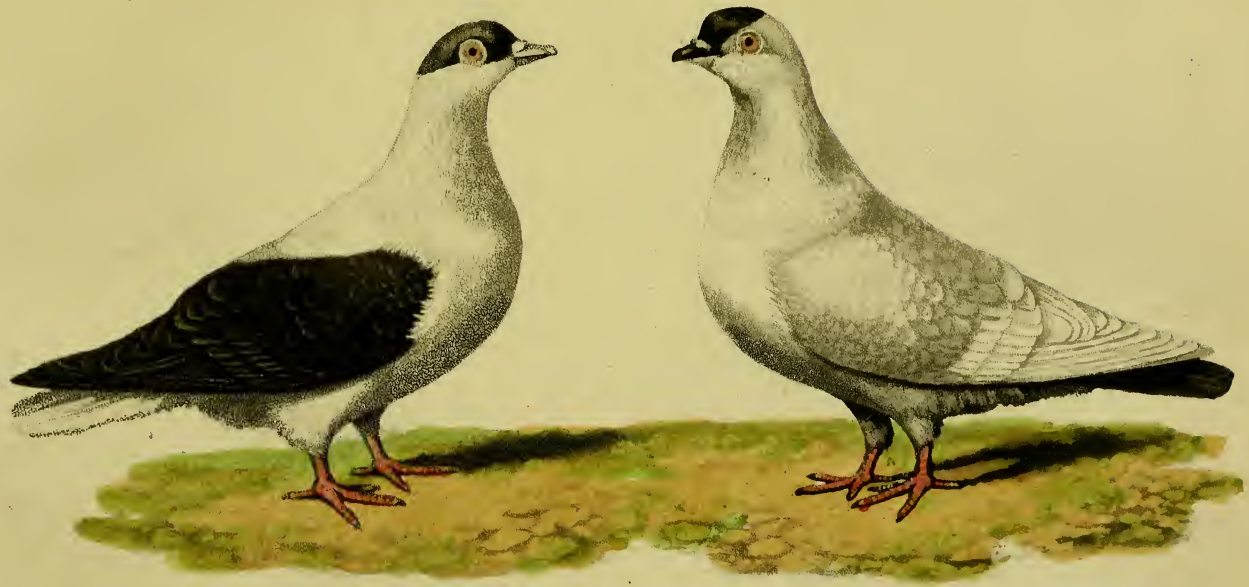
305. The cock relieves his mate about ten o'clock in the morning, and sits till four, p.m., when the hen resumes her place, and remains on till the next morning; sixteen days after the second egg is laid they hatch. The young are ugly little things, covered only by a few tufts of yellow down; the old ones feed them with soft meat, a pap prepared by the old birds from the food they eat. The old ones, taking the young bird's beak to their mouths, inject the soft food into its mouth, which the young then swallows; as the young advance, the food is less prepared, until it is given almost in the same state as the old ones find it. In about five weeks the young are ready to leave the nest; but ere this, the old usually have made another nest, and frequently sit again, and sometimes the second pair are hatched before the first could feed alone.

306. The prolificacy of Pigeons has often been commented on, and as all the early hatched young birds would breed the same year, they would necessarily multiply very fast; but then Pigeons have a great many enemies.

307. Much, too, has been said of the quantity of food they consume; but this subject I consider is overrated. I will content myself by giving one instance of an experiment I tried. When at school, I was permitted to keep one pair of Pigeons; these were common ones, I kept them in a rabbit hutch, the breeding-place divided by a shelf to make two nests, and they reared a pair of young ones every five or six weeks. While I had them they were fed on tares which I purchased retail; they also had food and water by them, and cost me, one week with the other, three halfpence per week; they were very fat, and the young grew well. I cannot say if Pigeons at liberty would be equally moderate in their demands, but I fancy exercise sharpens their appetites. Dove-cots are common in many parts of the country; they are built of various sizes, shapes, and materials; brick or stone are the best materials, not being so liable to harbour vermin and insects as wood; it must be inaccessible to cats, rats, &c., and kept clean; and as I have shown Pigeons occupy two nests at the time with young and eggs, the Pigeons should never exceed the number of nests, or much quarrelling and consequent loss ensue; far better to have double the number of nests than Pigeons.

308. Every winter the Pigeons should be all caught by the closing of the Dove-house at night, and the requisite number of pairs let out, being careful to allow a few hens rather than cocks in excess, for an odd cock is always a nuisance; better to have half-a-dozen odd hens than one odd cock, and cocks are generally in excess, because the hens are weaker and more liable to get killed; and though a hen may find no mate in the Dove-cot it is very probable she may pick up and bring home some disconsolate batchelor. The cocks and hens may be distinguished, pretty certainly, by a practised eye; the cocks have a bolder look, and are fuller about the cheeks; the hens look more feminine, and narrower across the base of the beak, and more depressed before the eye. Young birds too, are preferable to the old, old cocks often being quarrelsome; but this frequently arises from want of hens.

309. Almost all the common Pigeons are prolific; it is generally in the high-bred and high-fed fancy Pigeons, where, perhaps, for many generations no fresh blood has been introduced, that they fail to rear their young; their colour has no effect on their breeding capabilities; those that are not related, and whose parents were not related, will be the



Swallow. *Spot.*

hardiest and most prolific. From one to four years old is considered their most productive age; hens wear out sooner than cocks. I had a cock that bred at twelve years old, and a neighbour had one which bred well at twenty years old.

310. Although naturalists assign the origin of our tame Pigeons to the Blue Rock Pigeon or Rock Dove, I think the chequered Dove-house Pigeon the more probable ancestor. Not only is this Pigeon more extensively diffused, but it is very constant to its home; they have been known to return to their former abode, the distance of eighty miles. They are not so shy as the Rock, and are very easily tamed, and if properly treated will readily take up their abode where desired; and what makes me incline still more to the Dove-house Pigeons as the origin of our tame or fancy Pigeons is, that if the varieties are neglected and permitted to intermingle, the type of the Dove-house Pigeon will be more and more apparent among them. Still I have my doubts if all the fancy Pigeons had one common origin; it may be possible, but it does not appear probable.

THE SWALLOW-TAILED PIGEON.

311. Dr. Bechstein, in his fourth volume of the Natural History of Germany, gives the following description of this variety of domestic Pigeon. *Columba Domestica Forticata*, the Swallow-tailed Pigeon, is about the size of a common field Pigeon, but rather longer made; the most remarkable point is the forked tail, which is formed like that of a House Swallow. It is rare; in colour black, or black spotted with white, with or without a hood—very lively in its manners but not very prolific. The Pigeon Fanciers consider it one of the finest varieties.

THE TERN OR SEA-SWALLOW PIGEON.

312. This beautiful variety of toy Pigeon is called by the French "*Hirondelle de mer*," and by the Germans "*Die See Schwalben Taube*," or for shortness simply "*Schwalben Tauben*," which literally means Swallow Pigeon, but as they derive their name from their marking, which resembles that of a small kind of sea gull, called a Tern, though known to the French and Germans as a Sea Swallow, it follows that the name Swallow Pigeons, as commonly applied to them in this country, is inappropriate, and that the proper English name would be Tern or Gull Pigeon; the Germans also designate them "*Feen Tauben*" (Fairy Pigeons) and "*Nurnberger*," or "*Farben Flugeliche*."

313. Of all the toy Pigeons (I mean those I have classed as such, in distinction from the Fancy Pigeons, which have many properties), these are, with the exception of the Suabian Spangled Pigeons, the most worthy of the Fancier's notice, their decided and beautiful marking, and the contrast of their colour, placing them in character above the general run of toys. They are good breeders, about the size of the Dove-house Pigeon, and are equally light and active in their movements, though the feather-footed varieties, which are most esteemed on the Continent, are not well adapted to provide their own living, owing to their short and heavily-feathered feet; there are of this sort of Pigeon both turned crowned and smooth-headed, as well as clean-footed and shod; their necks are short, their heads, breasts, and backs broad, their ground plumage is white; their marking consists of the scalp, wings, and the slippers in those that are shod being coloured, which in the blue variety resembles the partition of colour in the Tern, the bird before mentioned, from which they derive their name.

314. Their points of marking are as follows:—First the head; the upper mandible should be dark and the lower light; the scalp or top of the head in a line from the corners of the mouth across the eyes, evenly marked, passing round to the back of the head dark, but in those that are turned-crowned the hood must be perfectly white. Secondly, the wings of these should be wholly coloured without any white feathers, but the epaulets or scapular feathers, which lie on the back, at the junction of the wings to the body, should be quite white, and as they overlay a part of the wing when closed, it necessarily appears narrow, which is considered a particular point. Thirdly, the feet, if shod, should be thickly covered with coloured feathers from the heel or hock joint to the toes, but the boots, or as Shangai Fanciers would style it, the vulture hock, must be white.

315. Herr Gottlob Neumeister, of Weimar, enumerates five sub-varietes, as follows:—

316.—1. The black Tern Pigeon, in which the markings are of a beautiful velvety black.

317.—2. The blue Tern Pigeon, the markings of which are clear blue, with regular narrow black bars on the wings, the flight feathers being dark slate coloured.

318.—3. The red Tern Pigeon, the colourings of a fine dark brown-red.

319.—4. The yellow Tern Pigeon, the markings are either bright yellow or buff.

320.—5. The light or wild blue Tern Pigeon, they are light blue on the coloured parts and have no wing bars, their pinions are slate coloured.

321. All the above varieties are frequently to be met with, with white wing bars, but they are not generally so accurately marked, still more rarely have such fine shell-turned hoods.

322. In addition to the above, I have seen some with dove-coloured markings, also of a kind of lavender colour, and mealies.

323. This sort of Pigeon is becoming somewhat plentiful in this country, though they are of but recent introduction, and they are now frequently exhibited at our shows.

324. According to M. M. BOITARD and CORBIE, the hooded varieties are considered distinct from the smooth-headed in France, and known by a different name, or at least they are the high fancy of the breed, and are bred with much care and of a small size.

THE LAHORE OR MARTIN PIGEON.

325. This is a variety of toy Pigeon, of rather strange marking. I first met with it at the Anerley Show, where some were exhibited by FRANCIS WORRALL, Esq., of Knotty Ash House, to which gentleman I am indebted for an account of their introduction. He informs me they were brought from Lahore, in the East Indies, for Lord DERBY'S Aviary.

326. In plumage they are black and white; in marking bearing a strong resemblance to the Martin or Window Swallow; the top of the head, back of the neck, back and wings are black; the throat front of the neck, breast, thighs, and tail being white, the division of colour being even and well defined.

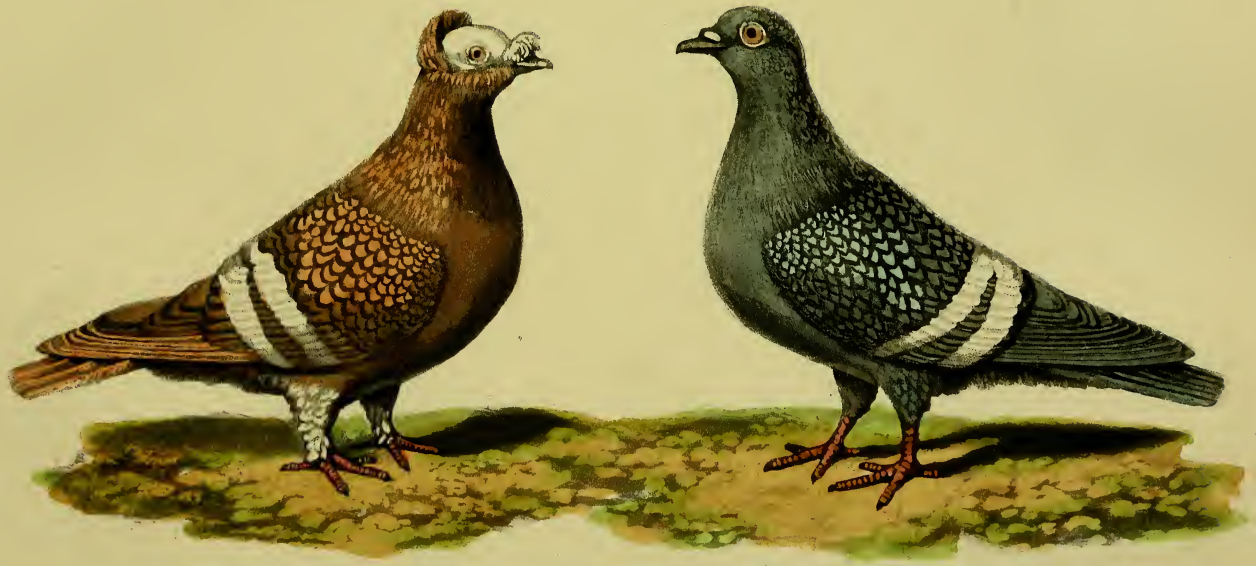
327. Mr. W. also informs me they breed well and true to marking; they are of the size and make of a Dove-house Pigeon.

THE CARMELITE.

328. Dr. BECHSTEIN, before quoted, also describes a small variety of fancy Pigeon which he calls "*Die Karmelitertaube.*" The Carmelite Pigeon is the neatest and smallest of the varieties of Pigeons; from its short legs and heavily feathered feet, it appears to sit on the ground; the beak is exceedingly small, and behind the head stands a point of feathers, like the crested Lark's; the under part of the body and wings are always white, and the rest of the body ash blue, redish yellow, bright yellow or grey.

FANCY PIGEONS.

329. Having now arrived at the end of my proposed second division of domestic Pigeons, and having described the Carrier, Antwerp, Tumbler, Pouter, Fantail, Jacobin, Trumpeter, Laugher, Turbit, Owl, Barb, Mahomet, Finnikin, Lace, Frillback, and a few of the Runts, most of which sorts include several varieties, it is my desire to offer a few words of explanation on this manner of division, as doubtless some amateurs would claim a place among them for other sorts, such as the Nun, Helmet, Magpie, Spot, or any other of the numerous varieties of Toys. The reason for my present division is, that I consider the Pigeons which I have classed as Fancy to have, most probably, distinct origins, while those which I class as Toys are most likely to have been derived from crossing the Dovehouse Pigeon with some of the fancy kinds; for in most of them the Dovehouse type is very prominent, and the change of colour, and an occasional turned crown, or feathers on the feet, may be considered as the effect of the cross, but not of sufficient note to give them the right to a distinct class. Their chief, if not only property, is that of feather, in which property some of them are very beautiful, and



Suabian. *Porcelain.*

others very peculiar ; advantage having been taken of very singularly and regularly marked birds, and, after careful breeding and selecting for a few generations, the variety has become fixed ; but, should they, from careless breeding, lose their regularity of marking, they at once lose all caste, and figure as nothing better than a common mixture or mongrel. On the other hand, should a fancy Pigeon lose its peculiar marking or colour, it would nevertheless remain a fancy Pigeon. Thus, for instance, a Pouter, Tumbler, Fantail, or any other, might be bred to any variety of marking or to a whole colour, and yet remain a true Pouter, Tumbler, or what not ; but suppose a Nun, Spot, or any other toy, to lose any of its peculiar marks, it would become worthless, or no better than any other common bird to be found among our country Dovecots.

330. Many of our fancy Pigeons seem to have had local origins, or to have been brought from distant countries, which I consider another point in favour of the distinctness of the breeds, in opposition to the generally received opinion that *all* our tame Pigeons are descended from the wild Blue Rock. The Carrier, for instance, is said to come originally from Persia. Barbs are said to be found in a wild state in Barbary, Trumpeters to come from Egypt, Laughers from the Holy Land, Jacobins from Cyprus, and Fantails from the Phillippine Isles ; and though all fancy Pigeons have not localities assigned to them, yet it is not very difficult to believe that each had a different origin ; for I think no Fancier will pretend to say he could produce a Pouter, Fantail, or any other of those Pigeons which I have already named, from the Stock Dove, Blue Rock, or Dovehouse Pigeon. Nor do I believe it possible, with the assistance of all the others, any given one could be produced ; but I think that almost any of the toys, at least such as I am about to describe under that name, might, by careful breeding, be produced from the Dovehouse Pigeon by crossing with other varieties. Thus it will appear that the toys are necessarily very numerous, and ever liable to have their number increased ; and as most civilised countries have several varieties of this class, it is impossible for me to enumerate them all ; but as I am acquainted with many varieties, I shall proceed to describe them ; and though I should have preferred commencing with the two or three best known in England, yet, as the beautiful spangled feathering of the Suabian Pigeon has been introduced by the Continental amateurs into most of the varieties of toys, it will perhaps be most proper to describe that first ; then taking the Nun, the Priest, and the Monk ; for though I did not hesitate to separate the Nun from the Jacobin, my system does not make it necessary for me to deprive her of every father confessor.

TOY PIGEONS.

THE SCHWAB, OR SUABIAN SPANGLED PIGEON.

331. The Suabian Spangled Pigeons, or as they are called in Germany "Schwaben Tauben," are I consider, the prettiest variety of toys. They are doubtless the origin of all those pretty spangled toys occasionally seen in England and known by various names, as Porcelains, Hyacinths, Ermines, &c.

332. The Suabian Pigeons are about the size of Nuns in shape and make, and much resemble the Dovehouse Pigeon in their manners, have generally a turned crown. gravel eye, and clean feet. They are rather shy, sharp flyers, and easily learn to find their food in the fields, as indeed is the case with nearly all the varieties of toys, unless incapacitated for walking on the ploughed land by the long feathers on the feet, which a few of them have, with which exception it may be taken as a rule that all the Pigeons to be described in this section are good "fielders," or caterers—and consequently well adapted for country amateurs—while the fancy Pigeons generally require to be house-fed, and therefore belong more particulary to the town Fanciers.

333. The chief, if not the only property of the Suabian Pigeon consists in its beautiful spangled plumage, the ground colour of which resembles that of a dark chequered Dovecot Pigeon ; the feathers on the head and neck are tipped with cream colour, or a soft whitish stone colour ; the tail is a dark slaty colour barred with black near the extremity ; the flight feathers are of the same hue, but they have a small whitish spot at the extremity of each, like the white spots on the pinion of a Goldfinch ; the secondary wing feathers, as also the primary covert feathers of the same, have a large

whitish spot on their outer web, which causes the wings to have two white bars, a feature much prized on the Continent by amateurs, when introduced into the colouring of any of the darker toys, and one of very rare occurrence in any English Pigeons; the whole of the lesser covert feathers of the wing shoulders, and the black or scapular feathers, have the white spots on both of the webs, which, when large, cause the feathers to appear almost all whitish with gray down, a black shaft and a small triangular bluish or slaty spot at the extremity, resembling ermine marks in heraldry, thus at a little distance the general plumage of the bird seems of a soft creamy white, slightly speckled with dark, but on closer inspection it is very beatifully and regulary marked —the whitish over-colour on the lower part of the neck across the crop gives place to a crescent-shaped band of an orange-brown shade, the rump and hinder parts are slaty-gray; in the young birds these white markings are of brownish or brindled colour, known to the Fancy as "kite" or "hawked," but this colour only remains so long as they maintain their nest feathers, and they lose it with them and attain the creamy white shade at their first moult.

334. If these Pigeons are bred to a darker shade, either by crossing with a black Pigeon or selecting the darkest for two or more generations, they present a very pretty appearance, becoming almost black, with two white bars across the wings, and the shoulders being spangled (not "mottled"), with white pearl-like spots.

335. The Germans have also what they call a Red Suab, or "Roth Schwaben," the ground colour of which is a brown-red, but the whitish spangling is not so clear on their shoulders, having a very faint pinkish tint, and being slightly marbled with red; the few I have seen of this variety had white upper mandibles, and also the crown of the head white, and a black iris.

336. The French have several sub-varieties, more or less spangled, some on a black ground, others on a clear blue, which are very pretty; some of them are spangled with buff, fawn, or red-brown, instead of the creamy white; some of the French birds are much larger than the German, and seem as if they had been crossed with other large birds. These varieties are all, as yet, but little known in England; I believe I was the first to bring the true Suabian Pigeon into this country from Germany, in the year 1843.

THE PRIEST.

337. The Priest, or "Die Pfaf-feu Taube" of the Germans, is a variety of the toys but little known in England, but a few may be met with among the collections of the curious amateurs, though in some parts of Germany they are very plentiful. These Pigeons are a little larger than the common Dovehouse Pigeon, which they much resemble in build; they are equally quick and active, and field well; they have broad turned crowns, and their feet are generally somewhat feathered; their colour is various, their chief property is their white head, the upper mandible is flesh coloured, and the white of the scalp reaches down in a line from the corners of the mouth across the eyes, while the under mandible, the hood, and the whole of the remaining plumage should be dark, except in the few that are spangled on the wings. The irides are gravel-coloured, but often appear half dark and half-light. They derive their name from their white head bearing some resemblance to the tonsure of a Romish priest.

338. Herr Gottlob Neumeister enumerates five sub-varieties as follow:—

339. 1st.—The Black Priest Pigeon; both with and without the white wing bars, and occasionally with the spangled shoulders of the Suabian Pigeon cross.

340. 2nd.—The Blue Priest Pigeon, with either black or white wing bars; also occasionally spangled like the foregoing.

341. 3rd.—The Brown-red Priest Pigeon; these rarely have the white wing bars, but when they do, the flight and tail are usually strawberry coloured. The chief point is to have them of an uniform dark brown red.

342. 4th.—The Yellow Priest Pigeon; has markings similar to the red, and are equally rare with white wing bars.

343. 5th.—The Stock Dove, or Wild Blue Priest Pigeon; their colour is a light or mealy blue, with the white head, like all the others, but without any other mark whatever,

not even the black wing bars so common to blue Pigeons. These are, however, not very plentiful. The White-tailed Priest Pigeon, or Pilferer, may be mentioned here, as it scarcely requires a separate notice, it having all the same colours and markings of the foregoing, with the addition of a white tail, but it is rarely so accurately marked. Mr. NEUMEISTER considers it a cross between the Priest and Monk.

THE MONK.

344. The Monk is another of the toys but rarely seen in this country; the few I have seen exhibited had the spangled shoulders of the Suabian cross, and were shown by the names of "Ermine Baldheads," or "Saxons." They are known in Germany as "Die Monch Taube" *(Monk Pigeons)*, from a fancied resemblance of their white head to the shaven pate of a Monk.

345.—This variety is also slightly larger than the common Dovehouse Pigeon; they are smooth-headed, the feet are short and heavily feathered, the irides are dark; they have broad breasts and backs, but are not so quick and active as the foregoing. In markings they resemble our Bald-headed Tumblers; the head, tail, flight, rump, thighs, and feathers on the feet are white, the rest of the body being either black, blue, red or yellow; sometimes the black and blue Monks have white wing bars, which are still more rare on the red and yellows; the blues, as before-mentioned, are also occasionally spangled on the whole of the shoulder. Great attention is required to breed them of accurate markings; or like all other toys, they become valueless if they lose their only property—feather.

ARCHANGEL.

346. Having thus far described the ecclesiastics of the Pigeon-house, it will not be out of place to soar a little higher, and now describe the so-called "Archangel." These Pigeons have but recently become known to the English amateur, but in Germany they are plentiful, and are there called "Gimpel," "Dompfaffen," or "Blutfink Tauben," which means Bullfinch Pigeon, these being only various names for that bird, and I confess I was somewhat surprised to hear the name of Archangel applied to them when I met with them in London. Sir JOHN SEBRIGHT has the credit of first introducing them into this country, and possibly from the translation of the word "Dompfaffen," which means a Cathedral Priest or Canon, as well as a Bullfinch, it was not difficult, by a stretch of imagination, to clap wings on the Archpriest, and transform him into Archangel. These Pigeons are the same size as common Dovehouse Pigeons, rather slighter built, and as sharp and light in their flight; still they are tame, gentle, and rather weakly, and do not increase so well as some others; they are point-headed and clean-footed; the iris of the eye is a bright orange. Their plumage is, however, exceedingly beautiful, and the feathers are more glossy and shining than any other variety with which I am acquainted; the head, neck, breast, and under parts, are copper red coloured, changing into a bright orange brown; the back and shoulders are a deep slaty black, having a purplish gloss; the flights are dusky black, and the tail is slaty, barred with black.

347. The young ones are at first kite or "hawked," but gain a great portion of their adult plumage at the first moult, though no Pigeons drop the secondary wing feathers (except two at each side) till the second moult, consequently, a brown patch remains on the shoulders till that time in these, as well as in the Suabians and other young spangled Pigeons.

348. There is a second variety of the Bullfinch Pigeon that is rather lighter on the breast; the shoulders are dull blue, with dark brown wing bars, but I believe it is not much esteemed.

THE BREAST, OR WHITE ARCHANGEL.

349. This, too, is one of the pretty German Toys, and I can only remember having seen one pair of them in this country, which were exhibited in London under the name of "Dresdens," most probably from their being brought from that city. They are, however, frequently to be met with in various parts of Germany, where they are known as "Die farbenbrüstige Taube" (the Coloured-breasted Pigeons), or simply as "Die Brust" (the Breast).

350. They are the same size as the common Dove-house Pigeons, but rather slighter made; they are very light and quick in their flight, and field very well. Like the Archangel, they are point-headed and clean-footed. Their plumage is almost as glossy as the Black-backed Archangel; their head, neck, and breast are of one colour, as black, red, blue, or yellow; hence they are designated black-breasts, or red-breasts, as the case may be. The rest of the plumage is of a beautiful clear white; the white feathers of the young are edged with a colouring, but become pure white after the first moult. As the name of Archangel has been promulgated, and the Bullfinch Pigeons are now well known by that name, I think, from the striking resemblance this variety bears to that, that the name of White Archangel will be the most appropriate English name for this variety, and the sub-varieties may be easily expressed, as black-breasted, or red-breasted, White Archangel.

STOMACHER.

351. This variety is known in Germany as "Die Latz-Taube," (the Stomacher Pigeon) from its being white in plumage, and wearing, as it were, a dark stomacher or breast-cloth. They are rather larger than the common Dove-cot Pigeon, being thicker made about the neck and breast; they are however quick and active and field well. They are "stockinged," or feathered to the toes with small feathers, and have very fine shell-turned crowns, which differ from the usual turned crowns in the feathers not being placed so close together, and in the crowns reaching half-way down the back of the neck. The head, and front of the neck as far as half the breast, is coloured either black, blue, red or yellow, from which they derive their name; the hood, back of the neck, as also the remainder of the plumage is white.

352. Like the preceding, these are, as yet, uncommon in this country.

THE STARLING-BREASTED PIGEON.

353. This variety resembles the common Dove-cot Pigeon in size, shape, and habits, and they field well; they are generally smooth-headed and clean-footed. The colour is almost always black, though occasionally blue or red; they have gravel eyes, and dark beaks. Their markings are as follows: two white bars on each wing, and a white speckled crescent-shaped band below the fore part of the neck across the crop, about an inch broad; the feathers which compose this band being tipped with white somewhat after the manner of a starling's plumage, from which they derive their name, and which looks very pretty on the dark glossy ground colour of the Pigeon's neck.

354. In the young, the white markings are of a rosy red until the first moult, when they become white.

355. These white markings retain their regularity only until the third or fourth moult; they generally become lighter, the points of the flight feathers get white, and the crown of the head grey; and the beautiful breast band becomes lighter, larger, and more unsightly with age.

356. I have had a few with white heads like the Priest Pigeons; they had also turned crowns, the upper mandible was white, and the eyes dark.

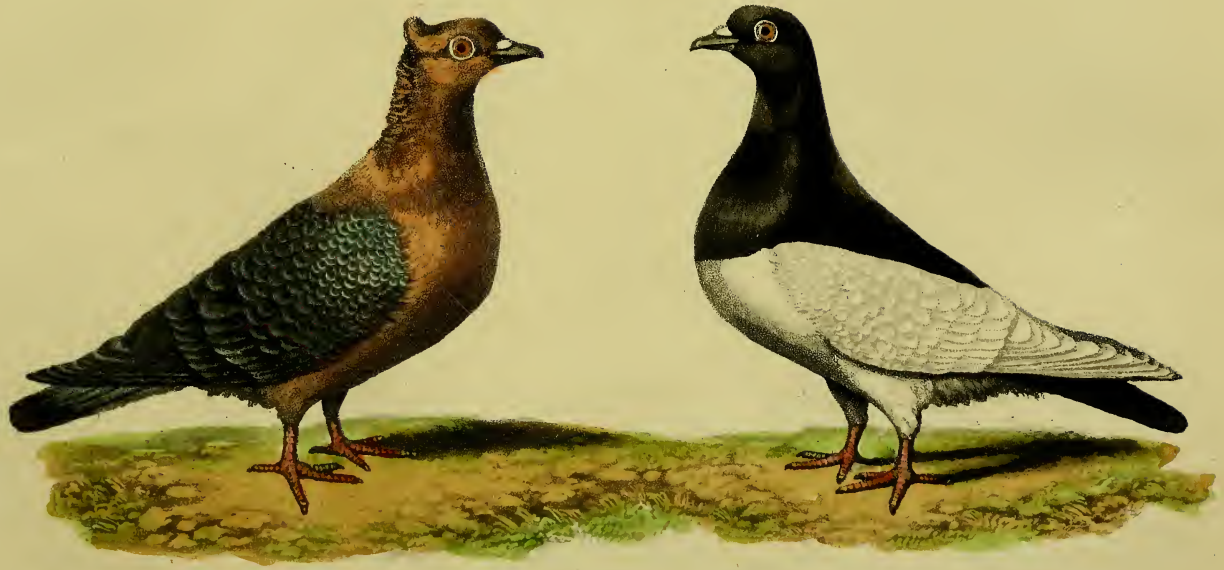
357. Their German name is "Staar-hälsige Taube."

THE SWISS PIGEON.

358. Not having seen this variety, which is to be met with both in Germany and France, I shall make no apology for giving the following description from Herr Gottlob Neumeister's Work, "Das Gandezer Tauben-Zucht." "The Swiss Pigeon (Die Schweitzer-Taube), also known by the name of Half-Moon Pigeon (Halbmonds-taube), is the size of the common Field Pigeon (Dove-house Pigeon), and equally light and quick in flight.

359. Their feet are heavily feathered, their ground colour is almost white, only a slight shade of colour to be seen; on the breast they have a coloured marking which resembles a half-moon, or only a finger-broad band, which passes in a curve over the crop; and on the wings they have two narrow, curved, coloured bars."

360. From a translation of the French Work on Pigeons, by M.M. Boitard and



Archangel. *Magpie.*

CORBIE, in the "Cottage Gardener," it appears the varieties of this breed are much more numerous in France, as seven varieties, or rather colours, are there mentioned all distinguished by their breast-plates and barred wings, with the exception of this whole-coloured variety, which has no markings, and is evidently the Pigeon known in Germany as The Stock Dove or Wild Blue Pigeon. Some of the varieties of the Swiss Pigeons are very beautiful coloured toys.

THE ICE PIGEON.

361. The Ice Pigeon is another variety of the German toys, known there by the names of the "Eis-," "Mehl-" or "Silberfarbige-taube." In size they are stouter than a Dovehouse Pigeon; the beak is dark horn coloured, the eyes a bright gravel; the head is smooth, and the feet heavily feathered. Their colour is light blue, and when in condition, the feathers have so much bloom on them that they appear powdered, or as if they were frosted or iced, from which they derive their name. The green gloss on the neck is but slightly perceptible; they have a broad black bar across the end of the tail, and two narrow bars, either black or white, across the wings; they are rather scarce.

362. The Stock Dove, or Wild Blue Pigeon, "Die Holtaube" of the German Fanciers, derives its name from its colour resembling that of the Wild Stock Dove, the whole plumage being of a slight blue; and they are entirely without any bars on the wings, a curious deviation from the general rule. A black bar in the tail is their only marking; the gloss on the neck is more red than green; and the feet are short and heavily feathered.

THE STORK PIGEON.

363. The Stork, or "Die Storch," or "Swingen Taube" of the Germans is one of the pretty toys occassionally to be met with on the Continent, but I am not aware that any have as yet been brought to this country, though in some parts of Germany they are much cultivated. They derive their name from their plumage bearing considerable resemblance to that of the Stork, being white, the pinions and a spot above the beak being the only coloured parts, which are either black, blue, red, or yellow. They are turned-crowned, and the feet are feathered to the toes. They are the size of a common Dovehouse Pigeon, as light and active in their movements, and field well.

THE MAGPIE.

364. This variety of toy Pigeon is evidently derived from the German "Elster" (Magpie), or "Weiszflugliche" (white-winged), "Burzel-Taube" (Tumbler-Pigeon), and many Magpie Tumblers bred in this country, both flying and short-faced fancy birds, which I spoke of in my former paper on the Tumblers, the present having reference only to the toy Magpie, which has been bred large and coarse, without regard to any other property than feather; a proceeding I regret, as it certainly loses much by contrast with a Magpie Tumbler.

365. They are of various colours, as black, blue, red, or yellow, and are therefore designated black Magpies, &c., as the colour indicates; their peculiarity consists in the wings being wholly white, as also the lower part of the breast, thighs and vent, the remainder of the plumage being coloured, which marking bearing some resemblance to to the pied plumage of a Magpie, is the reason for their name; and in the accuracy with which the colouring is divided their value consists. Although the wings are wholly white, yet the epaulets, or scapular feathers that overlay the back, are dark, being exactly the reverse in this respect, of the Tarn or Sea-swallow Pigeon.

366. A closer remblance to the plumage of a Magpie would be produced if they could be bred with the whole of the quill feathers of the wings, both primary (flight), and secondary (supporters), grizzled, or tipped with the dark colour.

SHIELD.

367. The Shield Pigeon, so called from its bearing on its wings a coloured shield on a white ground, is very numerous in some parts of Germany, where they are known as "Die Schild Taube," and are divided into two classes, the clean-footed and the slippered.

368. The clean-footed are small active Pigeons, about the size and make of Dove-house Pigeons, and they field well; their plumage is white, excepting the wing shoulders, which are coloured like the Turbit Pigeon.

369. Those with slippers or feathers on their feet are rather larger, their necks shorter, and their breasts and back broader; but, owing to their heavily-feathered feet, are not well adapted for finding their own food in the fields: they are marked like the smooth-footed ones, with either black, blue, red or yellow shoulders, and have generally white wing-bars.

THE GULL PIGEON.

370. I have seen in London individuals of a variety of Pigeon by the above name both living and stuffed: in appearance they were large, runtish-looking birds, smooth, headed and clean-footed; their plumage being white, with the exception of the wings and scapular feathers, which were black; the marginal pinion feather, however, was white, which marking exactly resembled that of the large black-backed Sea Gull, so common on our coasts, and from this circumstance they derive their name of Gull Pigeons.

PIGEONS.

371. Many people view Pigeons only as ingredients for a pie, and do not think any more of those beautiful birds they see started after the race on the Derby day than they did of those they devoured on the course for luncheon. With sharpers fools are called Pigeons, although I do not think the resemblance striking, as any Pigeon-keeper knows they are generally exceedingly wary and cautious. They have been domestic pets from time immemorial, and have been made use of in various ways, from carrying the letter of an emperor to participating in the tricks of a street conjuror. They have, from their diversity of colour, shape, and characteristics, occasioned many disputes and arguments as to their genealogy, and many scientific men differ as to whether they be descended from one common stock. Of late years the "Fancy" has been in a languishing state, and almost confined to the lower ranks of society; but the institution of exhibitions, and the premiums given for good specimens, aided by the real beauty of the birds themselves, have tended much to raise them in the estimation of Poultry Fanciers.

372. There are many who, if they could would keep fowls, but cannot for want of space; to these, Pigeons may form a substitute, and a cheap one, too. There are so many sorts of Pigeons, and they are of such different temperaments and habits, that the amatuer may provide himself with pets of a kindred spirit to his own. If he be of a go-a-head nature, there is the Carrier; is he volatile, there's the Tumbler; if he be an anchorite, he may have Capuchins and Owls for his companions; is he fond of female society, he can have plenty of Nuns; or is he of a warlike nature, he can have Trumpeters and Helmets; if he is sulky, he may keep company with Pouters: in fact, almost all dispositions may find a Pigeon to agree with them, if only in one point—that of name.

373. All manufacturing people cultivate Pigeons; in Spitalfields, Birmingham, Manchester, and in Belgium, great numbers of first-rate birds are kept.

374. There are three classes of people keep Pigeons. Pigeon Fanciers, Pigeon Breeders, and people who suffer a few mongrels to fly about their premises, and, in a great measure, get their own living. Pigeon Fanciers are those who, from the love of the birds themselves, cherish them for them for their beauty, and keep the different varieties in various shades of perfection.

375. The Pigeon Breeders are those who have large dove-cots, and supply the markets, Pigeon-shootings, &c. There is an immense number of young Pigeons imported from France for London consumption, and the fact that, at prices as low as six, seven, and eight shillings per dozen, it pays a Frenchman to send young Pigeons to England, proves that large numbers may be profitably reared at a small expense.

376. Farmers are very often involuntary Pigeon keepers, although I do not think that there is as much harm done by these birds in the fields as is placed to their account. Mr. St. John, in his excellent work entitled "Highland Sports," mentions that he

shot some which were taking their homeward flight from the fields one afternoon, and on examining their crops, they were found to be full of seeds of some weeds that would cost no end of trouble to get rid of.

377. Great numbers of Pigeons are kept in a semi-wild state in the eastern counties of England, costing very little for food, and amply paying for their house room with their young ones. They are generally of a slaty colour, sometimes brown and not unfrequently white ; but when many young ones are thrown of this latter colour, it is a sign the flock is getting degenerate and that fresh blood is wanted. In some parts of England wild Pigeons are so common (indeed, most of the birds before mentioned are but offshoots from the wild Roc Pigeons) that they intermingle with the dove-cote birds, and render the introduction of strangers unnecessary.

378. Many dozens of young birds are produced by an average flock in the course of a year, and these when killed young, are esteemed much before the French Pigeons, althought the latter are much larger. Twelve pairs of Pigeons bred between the runt and common roc (not Sinbad's), have been known to rear eleven dozens of young ones, between the 1st of January and the 31st of December. To any one with convenience for them, and they do not require much, half-a-dozen or a dozen pairs of common Pigeons will soon pay for their keep, and leave a margin for profit if taken a little care of. Their house should face the south, there should be three times as many nests as there are pairs of birds, and the house kept tolerably clean, *i.e.*, cleaned out often enough to keep it sweet, but not to disturb the breeding birds.

MODEL PRIZE LIST FOR PIGEONS.

379. In the Model Prize List inserted in No. 59 of the *Poultry Chronicle*, I perceive, no doubt owing to the badly written manuscript, that some of the divisional names have been inserted as class names, more particularly in the Pigeon list, by which means they do not appear properly divided, and the divisional name Tumbler being inserted in the class intended for Almond Tumblers, whereby that class appears to be left out, an error I did not think right to pass by. I therefore beg its re-insertion in its corrected form :—

1st Division.—Carriers.

A. English Carriers, best pair	C. Dragoons.....
B. Horsemen	D. Antwerps .....

2nd Division.—Tumblers.

E. Almonds	J. Any other variety of Tumblers, as helmeted, white shouldered, saddle-backed, or rough-footed, &c. .....
F. Mottles and whole colours...	
G. Baldheaded	
H. Bearded	
I. Magpied	

3rd Division.—Runts.

K. Leghorn	An extra prize might be awarded in this division for the largest pair, irrespective of variety.
L. Spanish	
M. Roman.....	
N. Any other variety of Runts..	

4th Division.—Fancy Pigeons.

O. Pouters, best pair	S. Barbs .....
Best cock.....	T. Turbits.....
Best hen	U. Owls.....
P. Fantails, best pair	V. Laughers.....
Q. Jacobins	W. Frill Backs .....
R. Trumpeters	X. Laced or Silk .....

5th Division.—Toys.

380. I enumerate seventeen varieties of toys, but it is not probable that nearly all of them would be shown at once ; therefore I include them in one class, and the Judges might be empowered to award a prize to the best pair in each variety, where deserving specimens were shown. The prizes need not be so high for the toys as they should be in the four previous divisions. The toys are as follows :—Suabians or Spangles, Nuns, Priests, Monks, Archangels, White ditto, or Breasts, Stomachers, Spots, White ditto,

Storks, Starling Breasts, Swiss, Gulls or Swallows, Shields, Helmets, Magpies, Ice Pigeons, &c. In this division might also be admitted any new or foreign variety of Pigeons or Doves. B. P. BRENT.

PIGEONS AT THE SHOWS.

381. (EATON.)—I take the liberty to offer a few remarks, now that shows are over for the season and about commencing again. Not many prize lists being at present out, it seems the proper time to make a few observations regarding the awarding of prizes to Pigeons.

382. Fanciers and visitors must have noticed, at some of the poultry shows Pigeons have not been exhibited; I think it would be wise to find out the cause. The committee of management may not have considered Pigeons sufficiently attractive, or Gentlemen of the Pigeon Fancy may have considered the prizes held out too low, and therefore declined exhibiting birds of the first class.

383. I think it is nesessary for both parties to mind their stops; Fanciers have no right to expect larger prizes than the Committee of a Show can afford. The *value* of the prize or medal ought not so much to be looked upon as the *honour* of taking it. I would suggest the propriety of having medals for prizes as low as 5s.; Fanciers could show their brother Fanciers and friends their medals (provided they had them), and feel proud of them, whereas they would not like to show their five shillings. Let this be optional, as some might prefer the money, to pay the carriage, &c., of the birds.

384. Nothing can be so destructive to Poultry Shows as for the outgoings to exceed the receipts; while, on the contrary, nothing assists more than a large number of handsome prizes. Most shows are hits or misses, owing to casualties over which the committee of management have no control, viz., the weather, &c. Where it proves a hit, could its surplus funds be better appropriated than by founding a ragged school? If it were announced in the programme that the surplus funds would be so used, I cannot help thinking that a large surplus would remain; and who knows what blessings might attend the Poultry Shows which are taking place in all parts of Her Most Gracious Majesty's dominions? To think of a little ragged brother—now as ragged as a colt—fifty years hence, as Lord Mayor of London, returning thanks for health drunk, stating his education had been received at a ragged school formed from the surplus funds of a poultry show. If they could be the means of raising one ragged school in every county, would not this cause the cottager's heart to sing for joy? Surely this is worth a trial.

385. Where Poultry Shows are unsuccessful, it may arise from many causes; the prizes may have been too many and too high. Pigeons and Rabbits may have been excluded, whereas, if they had been included, the show might have done much better. Fanciers of Pigeons and Rabbits are numerous, and would go many miles to see them; but their taste not being in fowls, they would not have power to attract them. So it ought to be; there is no accounting for the different fancies of men; it would be a bad job if every one fancied the same thing—it must be with fanciers as with husbands—each believing "he has the only lovely Nan." There cannot be too great a variety to draw the many; it is said "many a little makes a mickle;" the greater the variety at a show, the larger the company.

386. I will suggest what I consider a good prize list for Pigeons, and offer a few remarks afterwards:—

PIGEONS.

ALMOND TUMBLERS, or SPLASHES.

For the best pair, tested by the Standard of the Five Properties—First prize.
Ditto, Second prize.
Ditto, Third prize.

POUTERS, or CROPPERS.

For the best pair of Black, Blue, Yellow, Red, White and Mealy,—each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

CARRIERS, or STOUT BIRDS.

For the best pair of Black, Dun, Blue, Silvers, White, Red, Yellow, Black-pied, and Blue-pied, each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

SHORT-FACED MOTTLED TUMBLERS.

For the best pair of Black-mottled, Red and Yellow, &c., each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

SHORT-FACED TUMBLERS.

For the best pair of Black, Blue, Red, Silver, Yellow, Kite, White, Dun, Whole-feather, or any coloured feather, each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

SHORT-FACED BALDHEADS.

For the best pair of Black, Blue, Red, Yellow, and Silver, each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

SHORT-FACED BEARDS.

For the best pair of Black, Blue, Red, Yellow, and Silver, each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties,

DRAGONS.

For the best pair of Blue, Dun, and Pied, of whatever colour of feather.

JACOBINES.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

OWLS.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

NUNS.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

TURBITS.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

FANTAILS.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

BARBS.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

MAGPIES.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

TRUMPETERS.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

LARGE SPANISH RUNTS.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

LARGE LEGHORN RUNTS.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

ANTWERPS.

For the best pair, whatever colour of feather.

Foreign Birds—best left to the judgment of the Judges.

387. It may appear I have awarded much; there are many prizes which I know will not be taken, if offered, among the Carriers and others; besides, the judges are empowered to withhold any prize where there is not sufficient merit in the birds; it does

not follow the judges are bound to award the prize to the best bird of a bad lot. It often happens at shows, that the committees bring out their prize-list, then look after a practical man to assist them, when the mischief is done. From the above list, committees can select whatever birds they think fit, and according to their finances ; if they can only award one prize to each different species, let it be to the best pair, whatever the colour of feather, tested by their properties.

388.—I will now give you my reason why I should like the word Splash added to the Almond, to read thus : for the best pair of Almond, or Splash Tumblers, tested by the five properties, head, beak, eye, shape, and feather. I believe it would give great satisfaction to Gentlemen Pigeon Fanciers who exhibit their Pigeons at the shows ; for what is a Splash but an Almond-bred bird ? How often do you hear experienced Fanciers preferring a Splash to an Almond to breed, from being more likely to break and spangle the bird ; An Almond and a Standard Almond—where is the difference ? The standard laid down, as regards the feather of the Almond, is as follows :—three colours, viz., black, white, and yellow, in the nine first feathers of each wing, counting from their extremities, and twelve in the tail ; the aforesaid three colours, well developed, would constitute a standard ; but the back, breast, and rump should also be variegated, to be complete in feather ; the hackle or neck feathers should be bright and well broken with the same colours, and should resemble the delicate touches of the pencil of a fine artist. If the judges adhere to this standard, it is possible there may not be an Almond there, consequently the prize could not be awarded ; should a bird be perfect, save only one feather, in flight or tail, it would be disqualified for showing as an Almond, notwithstanding it had four other excellent properties. If this rigid rule is adhered to, it will give dissatisfaction to the exhibitors and Fanciers. The pens being fastened up (save only to the awarder of prizes), as they ought to be, Fanciers cannot handle the birds, to see whether they are Standards or not ; besides, the birds having their flights and tail closed in the pen, this could not be seen. Fanciers and visitors would exclaim—

389. What that bird take the prize ! There are many better birds for head, beak, eye, and shape. The first time I had the honour of attending the Columbarium Society, held at the Gray's Inn Coffee House, London, when the Almond Tumbler, that took first prize, was shown me, I expressed my surprise, being a young head and beak Fancier ; a gentleman, a good Fancier, made it clear to me. He stated it was the only bird in the pen that came up to the standard of feather. It often happens the best feathered birds are deficient in other properties ; besides, when their flights and tail are closed in the pens, you cannot perceive they are Standards, it not being visible. It is otherwise with with the other four properties, viz., head, beak, eye, and shape.

390.—With regard to those Pigeons that Fanciers consider worthy of a Standard, viz., the Tumbler, Carrier, and English Pouter,—for instance, if the Tumbler possessed feather and shape, two grand properties ; if another Tumbler is shown against it possessing the properties of head, beak, and eye, the bird taking three properties out of five must be awarded the prize. Again, if a Carrier, or Stout Bird, possessed length and thinness of neck, length of body, and great width of chest,—which, after all, is only one property, viz , shape—also the head ; if another Carrier is shown against it, possessing the properties of beak, wattle, and eye, the bird taking three properties out of five must be awarded the prize. Again if an English Pouter possessed the properties of shape, beauty of feather, nevertheless, if another Pouter is shown against it, possessing the properties of length of body, length of legs, and crop, the bird taking three properties out of five, according to the standard laid down by Fanciers, must be awarded the prize, notwithstanding the general appearance of the bird possessing feather and shape, which is truly beautiful.—From a Brother Fancier,

JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

7, Islington Green, London, (N.)

CONCLUSION.

391. Having described all the varieties of domesticated Pigeons with which I am acquainted, it only remains for me to make a few concluding remarks. Most countries probably have some other varieties, which are not known to me, for as a subscriber to the "Poultry Chronicle" some time back remarked, it is a subject that one man is in-

capable of fully describing, and therefore, I must beg those that know of any varieties, that I have omitted, to give a description of them? The extinct Dodo belonged, I believe, to this class of birds, as it has been called by some naturalists, a wingless Dove: other curious varieties of this vast class are to be met with, as the Columba Coronata, or large crowned blue Pigeon of the Moluccas, having a large fine-shaped crown or crest on its head. The Crested Turtle has a pendant crest, hanging from the back of the head, in shape like that of the Pewits or Lapwings. A friend informed me he once saw a pair of web-footed Pigeons in Leadenhall Market, but being pressed for time, he did not stay to examine them closely, and when he afterwards returned, with the intention of purchasing them, they were gone, and all the information he could gain was, that they had been brought home by some sailor; I have also heard of Swallow Tailed Pigeons, but like the preceding, I know little more of them.

392. Australia bounds in many varieties of Pigeons or Doves, among which, are the large Wonga Wonga. A Green Pigeon and the Bronze-wing, which last, I have been informed, has been domesticated in that country, and I know no reason why some few of the numerous wild Pigeons of other countries, should not be capable of domestication, but I think such as nestle on the ground or among rocks, would most likely be more capable of domestication, than such as are arboreal, or build their nests in trees.

393. The Passenger Pigeon of America is there met with in countless numbers, and I have been informed, that they too have been domesticated, while other writers assert them to be intractable.

394. The only instance I know of arboreal Doves being allowed their liberty, without abusing it, is in the case of the Collared Turtles, the common cage Dove, of a light fawn colour, with a black ring round the neck.

395. Yet I am not willing to suppose, that all our varieties of tame Pigeons are originally of one stock, neither do I think it possible, to trace all to the Rock Pigeon and Dove-house combined, which are the most probable ancestors, at least, of many of the Toys.

396. To enumerate the varieties I have already described, they are as follows: first, the two originals, or at least the breeds, still to be found in a state of nature, in this country. The Blue Rock, and Chequered Dove-house Pigeon. Secondly the sagacious and flying birds, as the English Carrier, Horseman, Dragoon, Antwerp Carrier, and Tumblers. Thirdly, Runts, or domesticated Giant Pigeons, the most familiar of which are, the Leghorn, Roman, and Spanish, but there are many others. Fourthly, the Fancy Pigeons, as Short Faced Tumblers, Powters, Fantails, Jacobins, Trumpeters, Laughers, Barbs, Turbits, Owls, Finnikins or Smiters, Mahomets, Lace or Silky Pigeons, and Frillbacks; and lastly, the Toys, properly so called, having but one property, namely feather, as the Suabian, and other spangled Pigeons, the Nun, Priest, Monk, Archangel or Bullfinch, White Archangel, Stomacher, Spot, White Spot, Starling Breasted, Swiss, Ice, Stock Dove or Wild Blue Pigeon, Stork, Tern or Sea Swallow, Magpie, Helmet, Shield, and Gull Pigeon, in all forty-two varieties, without enumerating their sub-varieties, of which few have less than four, and some a great many more, perhaps the Tumbler has the greatest number of sub-varieties, colours, or divisions of colour, which would exceed fifty, without including the foreign varieties of this breed.

397. The common flying Pigeons of this country are the Skinnums, bred mostly from a common Tumbler and Dragoon, but others are crossed with the Dove-house, Antwerp, &c., their only value is their sharp flying; for they cannot be considered as a breed. In France what they call "Voyageurs," are mostly a mixture of Tumbler and Dove-house, and are generally some mixture of white and red in colour, they are good breeders, but of little other value. Belgium too, abounds with this nondescript kind of flying Pigeon, and also crossed with the Owl Pigeon, and such are often sold as true Antwerps.

398. The common mixtures of Mongrels are too common to need a description, and too various to make one possible, they are made up of crosses of various kinds, and their only value is as food, for if properly attended to, to prevent their being too numerous for their accommodations, and the superabundant males destroyed, they will be found very productive.

399. I shall now conclude my papers on Pigeons for the present, hoping that I have at least given some little information to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," and

if I can be of any further use in that way to any other fancier, I shall feel happy to impart any further information I may possess.

400. Mr. J. M. Eaton has published an excellent work on the Almond Tumbler, which is worthy the attention of all amateurs, thanks are also due to him for rescuing Mr. Moore's work from oblivion. Mr. E. has not ceased here, but has lately published a diagram of how a Pigeonary should be fitted up, of which no doubt many brother fanciers will avail themselves.

H. P. BRENT.

The two following accounts of the Bronze-winged Dove, and the Great Crowned Pigeon, are partly extracted from the learned and excellent work, the Naturalist's Library (Ornitholgy), Vol. 5; Gallinaceous Birds, Part 3—Pigeons.—By Prideaux Selby, Esq., F.R.S., F.L.S., M.W.S., &c., &c.:—

THE AUSTRALIAN BRONZE-WING.

Although this Pigeon is a distinct species from our fancy birds, yet, as it frequently appears at our shows, a description of it will not be out of place:—

"The Bronze-winged Dove is a native of Australia, and many of the islands of the Pacific. It affects sandy and arid situations, and is usually seen upon the ground, or sometimes perched upon the low branches of the shrubs that grow in such situations. It breeds in the holes or decayed stumps of trees near the ground, and not unfrequently upon the surface of the earth itself, making a very inartificial nest, and laying two white eggs. It is usually seen in pairs, and the place of its retreat is easily discovered by its loud and sonorous cooings, which, at a distance, are said to resemble the lowings of a cow. Its chief food consists of a berry resembling a cherry, the stones of which are generally found in its stomach, during its abode around Sidney, which appears to be there restricted to the breeding season, as it is only met with in that district from the month of September till February.

In size it equals our Wood Pigeon, measuring about fifteen inches in extreme length. The bill, from the corners of the mouth, is nearly one inch, of a black colour, reddish towards the base. The forehead, the sinciput, the streak beneath the eyes, and the throat are white. The crown hair-brown with a reddish tinge, surrounded with a broad fillet dusky cochineal red. Cheeks and sides of neck bluish-gray. Lower part of the fore-neck and breast purplish gray. Abdomen and vent gray, slightly tinged with pale lavender-purple. Back, scapulars, rump, and upper tail covert, hair-brown, with a greenish tint in some lights, each feather margined paler. Lesser and greater wing-coverts bluish-gray, the exterior webs each with a large ovate metallic spot, exhibiting various tints, according to the light in which it is viewed. Quills hair-brown on the upper surface; the inner surface of the inner webs deeply margined with pale reddish-orange, which is also the colour of the axillary feathers and under wing-coverts. Tail bluish-gray, with a broad black fascia about an inch from the top, slightly rounded. Legs red with two rows of scales in front, the sides reticulated.

THE GREAT CROWNED PIGEON.

(Columba Coronata.)

This is a distinct species from any of our domestic sorts, but as specimens are to be seen at the Zoological Gardens, we insert the following description:—

"The Crowned Goura is a native of the many islands of the great Indian Archipelago, being by no means rare in Java and Bauda. In New Guinea it is abundant, as well as in most of the Molucca Islands. It inhabits the forests, and feeds upon berries, seeds, grain, &c. Its nest is built upon a tree, and, like the majority of the Columbidæ, it lays but two eggs each hatching. The voice of the male is a hoarse murmuring or cooing, accompanied by a noise, seemingly produced by the compression or forcible ejection of the air contained within the thorax, something similar to that so frequently heard from the turkey, when, strutting with expanded tail, he pays his court to the female.

By the Dutch it is frequently brought to Europe from their East Indian possessions,

Great Crowned Pigeon.

but being of a delicate constitution and impatient of cold, it seldom long survives in humid and comparatively chill atmosphere of Holland. In consequence, all attempts to propagate or render it available in the poultry-yard have hitherto failed, which is greatly to be regretted, not more on account of its external beauty, than for its excellent flavour as a wholesome and nutritious food.

In size it exceeds all the other Columbine species, being from twenty-seven to twenty-eight inches in extreme length. The bill, which is two inches long, is black; the tips of the manibles thickened, and that of the upper one moderately deflected. The head is adorned with a large, elevated, semicircular and compressed crest, composed of narrow straight feathers, furnished with disunited silky barbules, and always carried erect. This, as well as the head, the neck, and all the inferior parts of the body, are of a pure greyish-blue colour. The back, the scapulars, and smaller wing-coverts, have the feathers black at the base, the tips terminated with rich purplish-brown. The greater coverts are of the same colour, but with a broad central bar of white, which forms a conspicuous transverse band across the closed wings. The quills and tail are of a deep grey, the latter having all the feathers terminated with a greyish-blue. The legs are grey; the tarsi, three inches and a quarter in length, are covered with rounded scales not closely set, but showing a whitish margin of bare skin around each. The toes are strong and rather short, the scales disposed as in the Typical Pigeons.

(Eaton.)—At the sale of the late Earl of Derby, at Knowsley, 1851, lot 461 was five of these Crowned Pigeons. I have seen them; they are very handsome; they do not appear to have bred at Knowsley, or any place I am aware of in this country. We consider the Runt the heaviest Pigeon we have; as far as I can recollect of the Crowned Pigeons, they are as large as some fowls. I have enquired the weight of them, but, unfortunately, have not received an answer; they are considerably heavier than any Runts, and exceedingly handsome.

(Eaton.)—Since writing the last paragraph, and it being in the hands of the printer, prior to his sending me the sheet to correct, I was in company with my brother Fancier, M. Corker; we had to pass through Leadenhall Market, made up our minds to call on Mr. Castang, "for Auld Lang Syne," as a matter of course, over which Fanciers have no control, the Fancy was uppermost, talking of the greatest weight of Runts, the idea came into my head of the great Crown Pigeon (I saw, I believe, at the Baker Street Bazaar, Poultry and Pigeon Show), I asked Mr. Corker and Mr. Carstang if they could give me the weight of the great Crowned Pigeon, I mentioned five were sold at the sale of the late spirited Fancier the Earl of Derby. Mr. Castang went into his counting-house and brought out the catalogue, I referred him to lot 461, he was at the sale, I could not go, it was arranged at the sale to divide the birds, one lot a pair sold for twenty-pounds, the lot of three sold for thirty-pounds, to return to the weight of a pair of these birds, Mr. Castang said; to the best of his recollection, they were the size of middling turkeys, he thought they would weigh about sixteen pounds per pair, Mr. Corker said he thought about fourteen pounds the pair; Mr. Wolstenholme, the artist who engraved the bird, is of opinion that it is a large and heavy bird, I was afraid, in the above paragraph, to give you any weight, fearful I was out in my judgment, besides startling you as being outrageous, I wrote to the party who exhibited the pair as touching the weight, have not received an answer, the price put on them startled me, it was a reserved price, when I looked at and admired these birds, it was the last of my thoughts I should ever attempt to write on them, otherwise I would have been prepared to have given you their accurate weight, I will not go so far as Mr. Castang, sixteen pounds, or Mr. Corker, fourteen pounds; I agree with our brother Fancier, Mr. Wolstenholme, they are large and heavy birds, I think about twelve pounds per pair nearer their weight, at the same time these three Fanciers may be right and I wrong, now, admitting we could procure a pair of Leghorn or Spanish Runts, weighing five pounds avoirdupois weight, eighty ounces a rare pair of birds, what are they in weight compared to a pair of the great crowned Pigeons.

THE

ALMOND TUMBLER.

By JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

"All that a Man knows, or ever will know,
Is by Observation or Reflection."

LOCKE.

401. THE study and science of the Almond Tumbler, is productive of a great amount of pleasure, in the present day there are many gentlemen of highly cultivated minds, have proved by their engagement in breeding and rearing, sparing neither pains or expense, have fostered and cultivated, with the utmost care, this truly beautiful Pigeon called the Almond Tumbler. That it is a science well worthy the attention of those who might be induced to engage in this delightful recreation or fancy.

402. My object in publishing this treatise on breeding and rearing the Almond Tumbler, is to place it in the hands of the young Fancier, who is desirous of cultivating a knowledge, and endeavouring still further to improve their beauties ; I am sensible there is not a copy of a work, worthy to be placed in the hands of the young Fancier, can be obtained without the utmost difficulty, owing to their being out of print. At one time, I should have hesitated at the thought of writing upon so difficult a subject, it requires a very nice judgment to form a true estimate of the Almond Tumbler ; it must be confessed, they labour under the greatest disadvantages in not having their perfections and properties properly understood by gentlemen of the Pigeon Fancy in general. Being sensible of the disadvantages some young Fanciers residing in parts of the country labour under, not having the advantages of attending societies, seeing and examining birds that are put in pens on show days, and joining in cheerful conversation with experienced Fanciers, who are able and willing to instruct, by pointing out what are good properties and what are bad in a bird ; under these circumstances this treatise will not be unacceptable to the young Fancier, provided he has made up his mind to be a Fancier and rank A. 1. ; he must carefully read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest what is written to guide his judgment, as there is no royal road to learning, so there is no possibility of gaining a thorough knowledge of the Almond Tumbler, but from long study and experience.

403. I shall endeavour to rivet, on the minds of those who will engage in this delightful study, some great facts ; the first thing especially to be attended to, is the selection of really good birds—they should be young, healthy, vigorous, bred from as pure and good a stud or strain as can be obtained. From the highly artificial state of the Almond Tumbler in the present day, there is a tendency to degenerate, or throw back, as it is termed in the Fancy. For even when good birds are put together they do not invariably throw birds equal to those they are bred from ; if inferior birds are matched together, the produce must necessarily be unworthy the attention of a Fancier. Nonpareils will not always produce nonpareils, but nonpareils cannot be expected from inferiors birds. Much attention and great care are necessary with these birds to insure success ; especially if the young Fancier raises a standard in his mind to surpass those who have tried before him, has made up his mind not to rank second best ; the satisfaction of producing the best bird must be very great, and will amply repay him for all the care and labour that has been expended.

404. There are many gentlemen now engaged in breeding and rearing the Almond Tumbler ; the amateur has an opportunity of obtaining superior birds to commence with, which is indispensable to insure success. This he may do, by following the remarks made in this treatise, and the information he may obtain among his brother Fanciers.

A Portrait from Life in the Possession of the Author

The value of birds, as usual with matters of taste, will depend much on the estimated qualities of the birds ; if they should be of extraordinary beauty and excellence in the five properties, the price will be proportionably high, as there are many gentlemen in the fancy who know how to appreciate a good bird, do not hesitate to give a good price for it ; therefore, you must not expect to obtain a bird for five pounds, that other Fanciers would give ten pounds for.

405. I have now arrived at a difficult point, how to instil the knowledge of a bird possessing good properties into the mind of the young Fancier when he sees it ; should he be anxious to purchase the bird, I should advise him to consider whether he stands in need of the bird, believes it will improve his stud or strain, if so, buy it at any price, it cannot be dear. From experience, combined in conversation with some of the best and most experienced Fanciers, the only way to obtain an extraordinary bird, is to give more than it is worth, comparatively speaking. The first time I attended a Grand Show, there was as I thought, such a particularly pretty neat looking pair of birds, nothing gaudy about them ; they appeared so remarkably clean and quiet, the thought struck me of Friends and Quakers ; I became anxious to obtain this pair of birds, and seeing the gentleman to whom the birds belonged, I politely asked him if he would part with them, he said he would as he was desirous of bringing as many gentlemen into the fancy as possible, would favour me being a young and inexperienced Fancier, the price would be five pounds ; he greatly astonished me when he uttered "five pounds," if he had said five shillings, I think at that time I should had spirit enough to have offered four shillings and sixpence ; since then, I have had the honor of that gentleman's acquaintance, have been repeatedly in his aviary, seen the pair of birds I am writing of, having acquired knowledge of the Almond Tumbler, my experience taught me the birds were worth more money than he had asked ; in fact, they were a pair of extremely short faced beautiful Golden Duns, bred from a splendid pair of Almonds, I was at the time too inexperienced to know it ; I would particularly caution the young Fancier, on entering societies where shows take place, not to give offence to any of its members, by asking what do you want for that bird ? you would be treated with contempt, not get an answer, for you might as well ask some gentlemen to part with half their fortunes, as a bird they highly estimate. There are ways of doing things without giving offence, I think the best way is politely to ask, whether he considers it a fair question, if he would part with the bird, then you will receive a polite answer.

406. The best and cheapest bird I ever bought cost me five pounds, why I say the cheapest, is, because I bred twelve young ones from him, all good birds, I have given more, and know gentlemen that have given still higher prices ; I saw at one of the societies, a Pigeon, the gentleman to whom it belonged, stated he would not take twenty pounds for it. To return to the young Fancier, I would advise him to purchase good birds, if he is acquainted with experienced Fanciers, to solicit their assistance in obtaining birds that will be serviceable to him ; if, on the other hand, he would rather trust to his own judgment, all I can say, is, I wish him luck, it will prove a lottery, as the most experienced Fanciers have acquired their knowledge with care, trouble, and expense ; neither can the young and inexperienced expect to escape unscathed, till time and experience shall improve his eye, and mature his judgment. The dearest birds I ever bought was owing to my being out of my "Cocker," I summed and cast up by the rule of addition, brought in the sum total, the Fancier was too ignorant to take me in ; I acknowledge I was raw and green in the fancy at the time, I think I hear his musical strains, now "klaw zas zow zas zif blez zew, zur, me tak yu in zur" accompanied with such a sheepish and innocent look that would have taken in the old gentleman dressed in black, this Fancier took me in more than all the other Fanciers put together. It was my fault, being out of my cocker, assuming that he was too ignorant to take me in, "'Tis said it requires a wise man to play the part of a fool," I experienced it, I was the fool, without the wise part.

407. This bird is called the "Almond Tumbler" by gentlemen of the Fancy ; in my researches I have traced it back to the year 1735 ; as gentlemen of the Fancy have assigned this name to this truly beautiful bird, after consideration I think it would be injudicious to alter it, if a meeting of all the Almond Tumbler Fanciers was called together, I question whether any could assign a better name. For what is it Fanciers allow to constitute the Almond Tumbler, the three colors, black white and yellow,

variously and richly interspersed; the great difficulty, amounting almost to impossibility, is to obtain a rich bright yellow, nevertheless the ardent and indefatigable young Fancier should strive to reach the standard, authorized by gentlemen of the Fancy, namely black, white and yellow, in his efforts to obtain yellow will produce a rich almond colour usually called the ground, from which the bird derives its name. There are three colors in the bird, it would be folly to find a new name for it, as the oldest and best informed Fanciers are of opinion a better name could not be found, shows the good sense of Fanciers centuries ago. I hope the name of the bird will for ever be set at rest, it is known by the name in every clime where the English language is spoken, as the "Almond Tumbler." Should old and experienced Fanciers happen to make a mistake, sit in judgment upon this Work, or become severely critical, my object is a pure one in publishing this treatise, that it may find its way into the hands of the young and inexperienced ; the idea struck me, I might give him my experience, from actual observation and reflection, for a better and more experienced Fancier, to suppose for one moment, I had the audacity to instruct him, "is his mistake—not mine," I sincerely hope, I am free from such intention.

408. A person not acquainted with the beauties of this study or science, should not take upon himself the character of judge, and condemn a study or science of which he is utterly ignorant ; should he make his remarks freely, they would most probably be characterised by a gross want of information, and only meet with that contempt which they deserved. I am aware there are gentlemen who cannot see any beauty in Pigeons, except in a pie, "these are Belly Fanciers ;" although very numerous, with these I shall have nothing to do and advise you to beware of them, some come up to the standard gluttons.

409. That it is an innocent amusement and recreation, well adapted to professional gentlemen of law, physic, and divinity, or any other person engaged in long continued and excessive exertion of the intellectual faculties. The relief this delightful recreation gives is truly astonishing, by unbending the mind after close and intent application to abstruse subjects ; the mind of man is incapable of constant application either to study or business, it is necessary to relieve it. I am of opinion many of the brightest luminaries that have suddenly been lost to society, would not have been, had they been engaged in this Fancy, by way of recreation or relief to the mind. I have known some very old gentlemen in the Fancy, but never yet knew a Fancier that was troubled with hippochondriasis.

410. Nothing so base as ingratitude, I cannot allow it to pass without calling upon young Fanciers to join me in acknowledging the debt of gratitude we owe to the experienced Fanciers of past ages, for handing down to us young Fanciers such a beautiful strain of birds to commence with ; when we reflect for a moment, these beautiful birds were originally produced from the common Pigeon, when you consider at one time the beak should not exceed seven eights of an inch, (meaning the distance from the iris, or circle round the pupil of the eye, to the end of the quick on the beak.) If the beak was limited to seven-eighths of an inch, I presume was considered short at that time, what is the length it might not have run out to ! this is another proof of the debt of gratitude we owe, as I said before, to experienced Fanciers, and in a most especial manner the gentlemen of the late Columbarian Society, who had so great a share for the last hundred years in bringing the Almond Tumbler to the standard it has now arrived at. My young Fanciers, with these advantages at your commencement, I hope and trust by your spirit, attention, and perseverance, you will contribute to increase its beauties and perfections. I will endeavour to stimulate and cheer you on, by informing you the most experienced and accomplished Fancier that ever lived at one time, knew no more about the Almond Tumbler than the Almond Tumbler knew about him, or the little knowledge you are in possession of, provided you know anything of the Almond Tumbler ; I will tell you another great fact, the field is still as open for fresh competitors now, as it was one hundred years ago.

411. It is well known there are beautiful Pigeons at the Aviaries at Windsor; I have heard Napoleon I. was a Pigeon Fancier. It is one thing to have Pigeons, another thing to understand them. If it were possible for noblemen and gentlemen to know the amazing amount of solace and pleasure derived from the Almond Tumbler, when they begin to understand their properties, I should think scarce any nobleman or

gentleman would be without their avaries of Almond Tumblers, would form a splendid ornament in their beautiful gardens or grounds. It is with Fanciers as with others, they do not exactly think alike upon some of the points or properties; all that is wanted is honesty. If those great and eminent ministers, Whitfield and Welsey, after a college education could not exactly agree upon the same text, is it surprising you and I should not exactly agree upon the remarks we make from our experience derived solely from actual observations, taking the Almond Tumbler as our text; one thing is certain, provided we are Fanciers in the true acceptation of the word, we must go hand in hand upon the five properties, allowing each of us to choose our favorite point or property; for which of the five properties could we part with in producing a good bird—it is absolutely necessary to have the five properties, to constitute a really good bird.

412. That the Almond Tumbler, may be improved beyond what it has hitherto been, —that new beauties may be discovered, and a higher standard taken as the beau ideal of each amateur,—and that it may as far exceed the present standard, as that which is now looked up to does that of half a century back.

ALMOND TUMBLER.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRD.

FEATHER.

413. Imagine taking into your aviary or loft some inexperienced friends, who have expressed a great desire to see Almond Tumblers, what would be the first thing to attract their attention? Feather would strike some—shape or carriage would rivet the attention of others; if, on the contrary, you took experienced Fanciers into your aviaries or lofts, and asked them which they considered the grandest property of the five, my impression is they would say—Shape or carriage. It is my intention, in giving a description of the five properties, to take feather first; not that I consider feather the grandest property of the five, but from the bird deriving its name from the feather, and from the rich and variegated colours striking the eye of the general observer.

414. It is the decided opinion of all Fanciers the ground or foundation of the feather should be, strictly speaking, a rich bright yellow; tlhe difficulty, to obtain it. Intermix, split or break the yellow feather with a decided black, I think is scarcely attainable; a fact that has been established by many careful and oft-repeated experiments by the most able Fanciers that ever lived; we must therefore be content with having the ground of the bird a rich, bright almond colour; the inside of the shell of the almond nut is the best. The oldest Fanciers are unanimous in opinion this beautiful and very valuable species derived its name—"Almond"—because the ground of the bird is, or should be, a rich bright almond colour.

415. The Standard authorised or laid down by the Columbarium Society, as regards the feather, is as follows,—Three colours, namely black, white, and yellow, in the nine first feathers of each wing, counting from their extremities, and twelve in the tail. The aforesaid three colours, well developed, would constitute a Standard. The back, breast, and rump, should be likewise variegated to be complete in feather; the hackle or neck feathers should be bright, well broken with the same colours, and should resemble the delicate touches of the pencil of a fine artist. The late celebrated Columbarian Society judiciously raised the Standard to nine feathers in the wing, counting from the outer feather, simply because many birds have only nine feathers to the turn of the flight, while others ten. Would it be right for one Fancier to have to show ten standard feathers in the wing against another Fancier's bird having only nine feathers to turn of flight? The tenth feather might not be a standard feather, which would prove fatal to the bird, if shown to the turn of the flight, against a bird having only nine feathers at turn of flight, whereas the bird with ten feathers had beat the other with better feather up to the ninth feather, but would most assuredly lose if taken to turn of flight, tenth feather.

416. There are gentlemen in the Fancy who have asserted they have had some so truly beautiful and spangled, that have few feathers in them but what have contained

the three colours that constitute the Almond—black, white, and yellow, variously and richly intermixed ; and that after breeding them a considerable time, rejecting those that ran from feather, judiciously matching the good feathered ones together, have brought them to such great perfection, they should have been surprised to have bred any other than Almonds. There are some so magnificently elegant in feather, that their flight, tail, back, and rump, have resembled a bed of the finest and best broken tulips that can be imagined, or a piece of the best and most highly-polished tortoise-shell, for the more they are variegated, particularly in the flight and tail, provided the ground be yellow, or a rich bright Almond, through hackle, shoulder, and rump, the whole to be equally spangled and broken with black and white, the more they are esteemed ; the yellow is a colour most difficult to attain.

SHAPE OR CARRIAGE.

417. The Almond Tumbler ought to be a very small Pigeon, the more diminutive the the better, provided it maintains its other noble properties boldly, which is essential to constitute a good bird ; the more snug and compact, the more they are appreciated—the more the value of the bird is enhanced. It should be very short in the back ; the lower it stands the better, with small round body ; particularly with a fine, prominent, full and extremely broad (or, as Fanciers term it, square) chest ; the lower the neck the better ; should be shorter than any other Pigeon, with a particularly thin or slim neck, beautifully curved under the throat and thrown back ; the shorter the flight and tail the better.

418. It is my opininon shape or carriage is the grandest property in the Almond Tumbler ; would be one of the best criterions to judge a bird coming from a good stud. I observed before there is a tendency in the Almond Tumblers to degenerate or throw back in some of their properties, notwithstanding being bred out of the very best strain of birds. On examining an Almond Tumbler, should some of its properties run out as expressed by Fanciers, yet the bird maintaining shape and carriage, is evident proof of its coming from a first-rate stud of birds.

419. The shape or carriage of most things living is the most beautiful property, save the mind ; to my fancy I am not aware there is anything under the sun, or that you can imagine or conceive, that is so truly beautiful and elegant in its proportions or symmetry of style as the shape or carriage of the Almond Tumbler, approaching perfection in this property (save Lovely Woman), and has been most happily selected as the emblem of beauty, tenderness, and affection, and is depicted as the appropriate attendant of Venus.

HEAD.

420. The head should be broad as possible, not only broad, high and lofty as possible ; not only broad and lofty, at the same time should be round as possible, like a marble. It should have a good dig, chop, or stop, or any other technical term Fanciers understand and are pleased to call it. The front of the head should appear as it were overhanging a portion of the beak, at that beautiful part of the bird which, in the estimation of Fanciers, is not excelled by any ; I allude to that grand point, the stop in front of the head, or, more properly speaking, under the head ; the feathers forming the front of the head should make a dead stop ; above all things not run in a slanting direction into the wattle on the beak, which is a defect, and is called a needle point. Looking at the head in front, should it happen to present an angular or slanting direction towards you, it is called by Gentlemen of the Fancy thin-faced or mousey ; it is one of the greatest imperfections a bird can possibly have, being the very opposite of a round head and quick stop. There are few birds, comparatively speaking, that have these beautiful dead and decided stops ; and still further to add to the beauty and finish of the head, the feathers under the eye and about the lower jaw should be full and a little curved upwards, which is called "muffy." For a broad, lofty, round head, with a good stop, is in a fair way to be considered a wonder, or nonpareil, particularly by head and beak Fanciers, who constitute at least three-fourths of the Almond Tumbler Fanciers. To produce a bird as above described, Gentlemen of the Fancy have said it has been the work of a season, and have considered themselves amply rewarded.

421. There are Gentlemen in the Fancy who have asserted that head and beak is to be produced at any time. "Any time" is hard to define. If they mean the longest time they are right; on the contrary, if they mean the shortest time, they are decidedly wrong. Nothing is easier than to assert a thing; they would experience the difficulty if they attempted to produce head and beak.

422. Sir JOHN SEBRIGHT said he would produce any given feather in three years; but it would take him six years to obtain head and beak.

BEAK.

423. The beak of a first-rate Almond Tumbler ought not to exceed five-eighths of an inch: it would be infinitely better, if possible, to breed them that they did not exceed half-an-inch from the iris of the eye to the point, or, more properly speaking, to the end of the quick on the beak—I repeat again, if possible to have them so short-faced, as it is termed by Fanciers. It is possible for a bird to be considered a pleasant or neat bird even at three-quarters of an inch; exeeeding that length must be looked upon as unworthy of attention. The beak should run in a straight line from the head, be extremely fine and pointed; I have some in my aviaries that have astonished me, nor could I have believed it possible beaks could have been so fine, had I not witnessed it. There are beaks on birds, apparently short, with no more style in them than your thumb nails. There are first-rate Fanciers who are particularly partial to what is termed the goldfinch beak, which is very beautiful; others say, take a full size round cherry, then take a barley corn, and judiciously placing in the cherry, form as it were your beak. That is not all; it will form a good head and beak, provided it is judiciously done; others take an oat. I think the goldfinch beak the handsomest; I would advise the inexperienced Fancier to get the head of a goldfinch and keep it by him; at the same time if he kept a marble by him, for shape of head as well as beak, for his observations.

424. The wart or wattle on the beak should be very fine; as little as possible resembling as it were a thread drawn across the beak. Where this fineness of wattle can be obtained, it adds greatly to the beauty of the bird, and is a sure mark of its being well bred, besides giving the appearance of a more decided stop.

EYE.

425. The brighter and more prominent the better, like the eye of a fish (take for example the bright-eyed Perch). It is the general opinion of Fanciers the eye should be fixed in the cenre of the head. I will show what would probably give the appearance of a loftier, broader, and less "behind the head." Suppose, for argument, the head was an inch perfectly round, divide the one inch into sixteen equal parts; if you place the eye one-sixteenth more or less below the centre of the head, the more lofty-headed the Almond Tumbler will appear, or the reverse; the same holds good if the eye is placed back in the head, giving the head a broader appearance in front, and less "behind the head," which is the opposite of what is called "duck-necked" by Fanciers. The effect is still greater where the beak is low on a round-headed Almond Tumbler; it gives that truly beautiful and striking stop, which is not eclipsed by any other portion of the bird, and which is held in such estimation by the best Fanciers.

426. The eye should be free from a thick skin or flesh round it, known to Fanciers, a great defect; a beading may look pretty on a miniature frame; it is the very reverse round the eye of an Almond Tumbler; the eye should be feathered close to the edge, the more bright silver or pearl-coloured the iris of the eye the better.

THE HEN.

427. The Hen is inferior to the Cock in some of the properties, and superior in others, which I shall endeavour to show; it is with the Almond Tumbler as with most other birds, the male is more impudent and audacious, courser in his looks, beak, and wattle; the hen is more delicate, finer in her beak and wattle, and though generally of more spare appearance, comes very little short in shape or carriage. She is smaller than the cock, which is an advantage. The cock and hen are equal as regards the eye; that is to say, the eye of the male is not more wicked than the female's;

with regard to feather, the cock has a deal more ground, more break or variegation in his flight and tail feathers ; although there are hens equal in feather to the cocks, they are very few; they are the exception to the rule. Should it happen two birds possessing the five properties, namely, head, beak, eye, carriage, and feather, equally alike, I have no hesitation in saying the hen is worth double the money of the cock. As I observed before, they are the exception not the rule, being very scarce and not quite so brilliant in feather.

* 427. I cannot in my conscience withhold from you, my brother Fanciers, the beautiful and judicious remarks I received in a letter from Mr. WILLIAM TONGE :— "With regard to the general appearance of a bird, it is really wonderful to see how some (who call themselves Fanciers) are carried quite away, overlooking every consideration save that of feather, which it must be admitted is a truly fine FINISH. But as everything must have a beginning, it must be infinitely better to attach the greatest importance to that which constitutes the FOUNDATION, leaving all artistic embellishments to a future season. Comparisons are sometimes odious, and perhaps this may be considered an instance. Many a good bird is passed over without comment simply because he is clothed in a bad skin, although, did he but possess his brother's coat, and *vice versa*, how great would be the change !

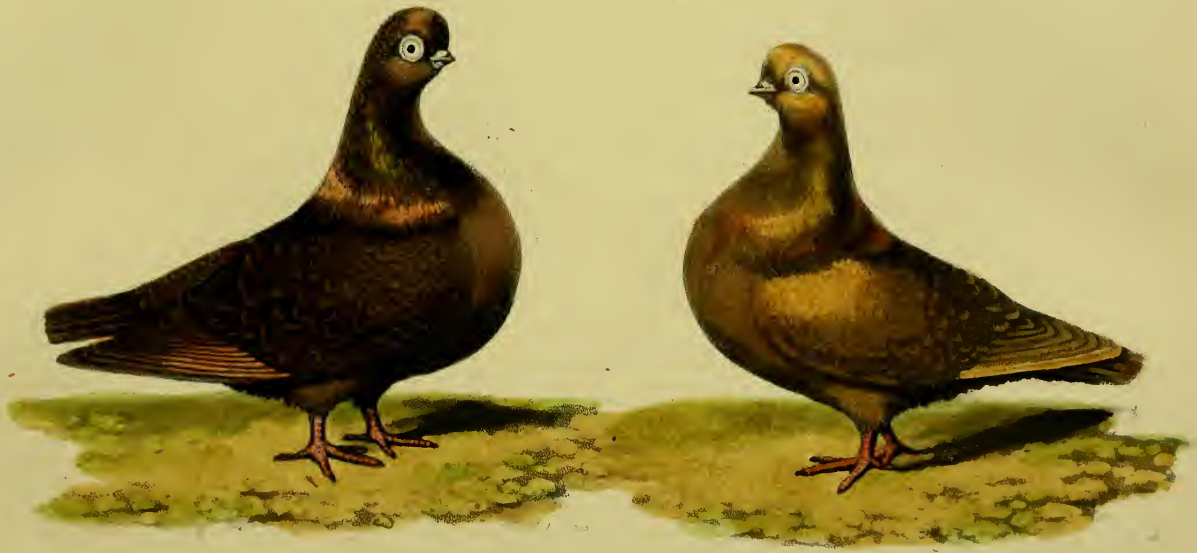
MATCHING OR PAIRING.

428. There are several things to take into consideration ; the first, how many pairs of birds you intend to match up ? What is the temperature of your aviary or loft ? How are you circumstanced for room ? The reason I ask how many pairs you intend to match up is—if you intend only matching a few pairs, and have ample room for them, match them by the beginning of March, should the place be warm ; the middle of February if you match up forty pairs, as I have done. Require the birds to keep the pens you assign them, then match up the first of February, as you will experience much trouble, and it will take considerable time before you can get the birds steady to the place you have assigned them.

429. The first or second round of eggs, as it is termed by Fanciers, seldom produce anything, owing to their being thin-shelled, soft, or lush eggs. Should they break or destroy their eggs, it is necessary to give them addled or bone eggs, made on purpose. Make them set their time. It is necessary to give them a young one to feed off their soft food, which they will do in a week or ten days ; there is a great difference in feeding ; some feed well ; others, comparatively speaking, do not feed at all. I said it was necessary to make them set their time and feed off their soft food, otherwise they will only lay soft-shelled eggs so frequently through the breeding season, that you will ruin the constitution of the hens for ever.

430. On the knowledge you possess of matching and shifting, will depend your success as an Almond Fancier ; these are the two grand secrets or great facts—the first, to produce, the second, to raise ; I shall endeavour to assist you, how to breed a good bird. I stated in a former part of this work, you have no right to expect a wonder or Nonpareil from inferior birds. Fanciers widely differ in their attempts to breed a good bird ; some Fanciers, sacrifice every property in a bird to obtain head and beak, by matching the two best head and beak birds in the aviary or loft, others, sacrificing the other properties to obtain feather, this is the cause, of observing such good head and beak birds, but running from feather ; on the contrary, those Fanciers who sacrifice everything for feather, breed birds with beautiful feather, but they run out in head and beak. Fanciers, looking at good head and beak birds, will tolerate the bird and overlook the feather, on the contrary, if it was the best feather possible to obtain and ran out in the head, thin-faced or mousey, the remark many fanciers would make, (as I have heard it) they would give ten pounds provided the bird was as good in head and beak, as it was in feather.

431. There are young Fanciers who are over covetous, who go for all the five properties at once, they have their reward by getting nothing ; others breed to a feather, they forget to say what feather. I will mention a cause to show the uncertainty of breeding to a feather, as it is called : the best pair of Almonds—cock and hen, extra good in all properties, I ever possessed, keeping them matched together for three years, bred three beautiful Almond cocks, two kite hens, yellow and red whole feather, yellow



Kite.

Wholefeather.

and red agates, all coming from the same pair of birds. Is this what they call breeding to feather? Now, if this pair of Almonds had bred all the young-ones as near alike for feather, as, they did head and beak, that would be nearer breeding to feather. I will give you other instances. I matched up a beautiful head and beak splash cock to a rich kite hen, in the same nest, produced two young ones—the one pure white, the other as black as a coal; from another splash cock and kite hen, I bred a perfect Blue Tumbler, in the following nest a perfect Silver Tumbler, this made me think, fortunately the blue, a cock, the silver, a hen, I matched them together to see if they would throw back, or what they would throw, whether Splashes, Kites, Duns, whole-feather, or &c., unfortunately they were a very cowardly pair of birds, any birds could drive them off their nest, the eggs always addled; should they lay this season I will set the eggs under feeders, to see the color of feather they will throw, (I know they will be Tumblers) I thought this breeding to a feather with a vengeance. The inexperienced Fancier may say, they did not come from a good stud of birds; when he knows more, he will say less, I question much whether he will ever be able to obtain such birds as I am writing of.

432. Counteraction, is a grand thing to be observed, this must have its limits; for it would be unwise to match up a bad cock to an extra good hen, if you split the difference in their young, you make half-and-half of them; "Half-and-half" may be good to a Fancier on a long dusty road, his throat parched with thirst, when he comes to a Pig and Whistle Shop, can get nothing better, but half-an-half Almonds will not do for the Fancier, besides throwing away the use of the hen for the season. A member of the original Columbarian Society, to whom we owe much, stated, the best Almond supposed ever bred was bred from a white agate cock and kite hen; we are not to consider this surprising, the agate cock and kite hen, for ought we know, may have had the blood of the Almonds, in a direct line for the last hundred years; do not Fanciers say, they cannot have too much of a good thing, match up the most plum puddingy Almonds, as they call it, cock and hen; do they always throw Almonds? certainly not, but all colours in feather, rich kites, duns, yellows, reds, whole feathers, and agates. These birds having the blood of the Almonds, coming from good feathered Almonds, as far as you are able to ascertain, (if you are acquainted with their pedigree, so much the better;) these young birds, being judiciously matched, are as likely to throw Almonds, as the Almonds themselves; some of the best and most experienced Fanciers express it their opinion, the amazing power of the Almond Tumbler to throw all shades of colour—whole feather, agate, splash, broken, or spangle, is one of the chief causes, that keep Fanciers so long in the fancy; propels or induces the Almond Tumbler to persevere, owing to the uncertainty of throwing feather; as they observe if it was reduced to a certainty, the zest would be lost; the Almond Tumbler Fancy, is as open now for fresh competitors, as it was a century ago. There are Fanciers who condemn me, say I match up too high for feather; be this as it may, I am one of those who think we cannot have too much of a good thing, and may be rewarded like the man who reasoned,—"if a little physic was good, what must a great deal be?" why, do everything, but, what it was intended. The Fancier may draw his inference, that I am a Head and Beak Fancier, and despise Feather; I am a great admirer of Head and Beak, I am not insensible to Feather; I observed before, which of the five properties could we afford to lose? is not feather a grand property?

433. It unfortunately sometimes happens, exhibiting a bird on a show night, if a bird possesses four good properties out of the five, namely:—head, beak, eye, and carriage, should fall short in feather, a "Feather Fancier" would remark the deficiency of feather, apparently overlooking the four other properties; do not lose your command of temper, do as I have done this season, provided the strength of your aviaries and lofts will allow you to pick out of seventy pairs of birds as mine will, match up expressly six pairs of the best feather, most likely to throw feather, you will probably be in a condition to challenge him to show for feather.

434, I will be brief, touching on the delicate subject of exhibiting a bird as their own, although borrowed from another, for my part, I would as soon challenge all England to show a bird, as some, (very few I hope in the Fancy,) who would make a bet to show a bird of their own breeding, and then borrow the best bird they could procure for the occasion; I sincerely hope this rarely occurs, it has occured. If you fall in challenging all England, you fall nobly, if you are outwitted by a rogue, you fall by

a swindler. While, on this delicate ground, in an especial manner I would call upon the Fancier, if ever placed in a position, not the most pleasant in the science of the Almond Tumbler, I allude to that of being appointed one of the judges, let honesty and integrity be as the breath of your soul, if there is no doubt on your mind the two birds are equal, wash your hands as it were of the responsibility, provided you are not already outvoted by calling in an umpire or referee, above all things, err rather from want of judgment than design, be assured the Fanciers would be upon your decision, should your decision be manifestly partial, you will bring down the detestation of the whole Fancy upon you, and be stamped with infamy to the end of your days.

435. It might appear I would write anything, rather than grapple with the subject of matching and pairing the birds, I thought it would not be amiss, to go into my aviaries to see how I had matched my birds, found I had matched them all manner of ways, with the exception of head and beak, I cannot recommend you to matching from my own aviaries; it is better to have ten pairs of good birds well-matched, than fifty pairs by counteraction. Match up your aviary, or loft of birds, commencing with your best cock and hen, going down till you come to birds, you do not approve of, then discard them. I do not pretend to instruct how to breed any given feather in the Almond, after all, feather is only one property out of five, therefore, it is absolutely necessary to guard the other properties in producing an extra bird. It is possible you may have a cock, so undeniably good in all the five properties, or particularly in feather, head and beak; if you had a hundred hens, you might exclaim you had not a hen good enough, in head and beak to match to him, at last be driven to match a kite hen, simply because they often run better in head and beak than the Almonds. The kite hen has the advantage over the dun hen, by producing better black. The dun hen will produce more yellow and soft ground, will not produce such good black in flight, tail and spangle, but appear smokey or dunish, unless the cock is amazingly strong in feather. Good sound whole feather Almond bred Hens, with their rumps extra covered, namely: kites, duns, reds, or yellows, give a sound foundation or ground, by matching them to an Almond or Splash cock, you stand a great chance of breeding an Almond or Splash, an Almond or Splash hen, may likewise be matched to whole feather sound Almond bred cocks; I think it necessary the black should be visible either in the cock or hen. It is possible two whole Feather birds may throw Almonds or Splashes, I think it dangerous to try unless you are destitute of a bird, it is better to buy a bird if possible.

436. I cannot help thinking the ground of the Almond Tumbler has greatly improved in the last few years, being more yellow. The gentlemen of the late original Columbarian Society, always had good feathered birds, there were other Fanciers who had not; although it is agreed the feather should be black, white, and yellow; some appeared as though the ground, flight, and tail feathers, were as near red as yellow, the black an olive; these are called too deep in colour, called mahogany birds; there is another description of birds, such as are called bred too high for feather; it is easy to say too high for feather, and another thing, what you mean by it, do you mean to say the too deep colour bred bird, and the too high bred bird is the same thing? Certainly not; the effect shows itself when we produce a number of white or white agate young birds, that we certainly have matched the birds too high for feather, and too much blood in them, as it is called; on the contrary, should you happen to breed an Almond, it is generally an extra feathered bird. It cannot be reduced to a certainty how to breed for feather. If a Fancier is very desirous of breeding for feather, I do not know that he could accomplish his object better, than by matching an Almond cock, which is bred very high for feather, black, white, and yellow, the black particularly good and strong, over to a rich golden dun hen, bred from two Almonds; the reason I say the black in the cock should be particularly good and strong, is, while the dun is proverbial in softening a hard feathered cock, and giving a beautiful soft yellow or Almond ground, fails in producing the black. I am not aware of any match that is likely to throw better feather, provided the black is good, it almost amounts to an impossibility to intermix a decided black with a rich bright yellow; there are many gentlemen of the Fancy, who know what good black is, I am fearful have not paid attention to ascertain, what is a good yellow.

437. Now I am writing on black and yellow, let us endeavour to illustrate or define it. I think you could not do better than thus: suppose a grand show open to all Eng-

land, to produce the best standard Almond Tumbler, two gentlemen Fanciers appointed judges, in a room by themselves, the birds being handed in for admission, the standard being black, white, and yellow, they have agreed in passing two birds at first sight into the pen, which are to be examined again prior to their being shown for the prize; another bird is now handed in, which is a standard bird, is objected to by one of the judges, the other asks on what grounds—the answer he received that it is not a jet or good black, that it is a faint, smoky, or bad black; the other judge insists upon good yellow, goes to the pen to examine the two birds that had passed to be re-examined, and declares them disqualified for showing, the other judge requires the cause, is answered the ground of the bird, also the flight and tail is nearer a red than a yellow, and as the one would not pass a faint black, neither would the other pass a reddish bird, for a yellow.

438. To return to the matching of the rich Almond cock and golden dun hen, if on the contrary, the same cock was matched over to a good kite hen, they would throw in better black, producing more kites, it may be Almond and Kite in each nest. I think you will not be wrong even in matching up a Spangled or good Splash cock to a sound bright whole-feather hen, Almond bred, namely—duns, kites, reds, yellows, or even red and yellow mottled agate Almond bred birds, and reversing it with the hens and cocks. Not knowing how to produce a given feather I experience the difficulty of instructing you; I think what I have stated are the best rules to lay down, it will assist if you know how the birds have been bred; at the same time it is encouraging to the young Fancier, that he may come into the Fancy, and throw a bird for feather from an agate cock and kite hen, with the most experienced Fancier. You will see beautiful golden yellow in bantams, also in spaniels although called tan, might not some Almonds be called olive, white and tan; we do not expect to obtain yellow in the Almond as in the goldfinch, refer to the portrait, or what you may consider better, put your hand into your pocket bring it out full of rich bright golden sovereigns, refer to some of these for good golden and pleasing yellow. Remember, still feather is only one property out of the five.

OF LAYING.

439. Much will depend on the state of the weather; should it be fine or warm, the hens will begin to lay in about a week after matching. I have little opinion of those eggs that come very soon after matching; on the contrary, I have experienced greater success with eggs that come later. Make them a good nest, experience teaches me hay is best, rubbed with the hands, they seldom make a proper one themselves. Let it be a tight nest, if loose and careless the eggs will get under, the birds loose them, forsake the nest; the eggs are not hatched owing to carelessness on your part. The hen mostly lays two eggs, missing one day between the first and second; after having laid her first egg, which is always between five and six o'clock in the evening, she and the cock alternately stand over it, to protect it from the intrusion of other birds; the second is laid, usually between one and two o'clock on the third day, when they commence incubation in the following manner:—the cock sits from between nine and ten in the morning till four or five o'clock in the afternoon, when the hen sits till the following morning, and so alternately till the seventeenth day from laying the last egg, when the incubation is complete, the eggs will be chipped, and in general hatched in the course of that day, if they hatch at all, and this regularity and alternate relief is maintained during the feeding as well as the sitting.

440. I used, formerly, when the first egg was laid between five and six o'clock in the evening, to take it away, put it into a pill box, lined with wadding, to prevent its breaking, and substitue a bone egg, for the birds to stand over or sit upon, on the third day, when the hen would lay her second egg, between one and two o'clock; prior to this, on the same morning, restore the first egg about nine o'clock, so that it might acquire the same warmth, of the last egg, and both eggs hatched together. I was a gainer by this method, having many birds, it was too troublesome; if you have few birds and time it will reward you for your trouble. I have thought it singular, match up your birds, whatever hour out of the twenty-four, the first egg will come between five and six o'clock in the evening, and the second between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, missing one day.

OF HATCHING.

441. The Fancier should be particular, and certain of the day of hatching. The way I do is to keep a book on purpose, looking at the nest pans, where I expect them to lay after six o'clock in the evening; if an egg is laid, I put it in the book the number of the pen to which the birds belong the day the first egg is laid; suppose the first egg on the first of the month, the second egg on the third, then add seventeen days for sitting from the last egg, making it the twentieth; generally speaking, Fanciers reckon seventeen days from the second egg laid, I think it better to take nineteen days from the first, making it the twentieth, it comes to the same thing, provided two eggs are laid, it often happens that only one is laid, and very rare that three are laid. While you are going your round to look after fresh laid eggs, look to eggs that are to hatch that day, be assured in nine cases out ten, the birds will be hatched if hatched at all, unless the weather be unfavorable and the birds do not sit close; on the contrary, should the weather be very hot, the birds sit close with a warm nest, they will rather hatch before. We will suppose the seventeenth day from the hen having laid her last egg now arrived, the young ones beginning to hatch, much attention is now necessary to be paid, a little judicious assistance is sometimes requisite to assist the young bird in extricating itself from its prison-house, particularly in the spring, when the young ones even in the shell are more delicate and weakly than they are at a later period of the season, consequently less able to disengage themselves. If an egg does not spring or chip by the time it ought, namely, in the course of the seventeenth day, the Fancier should hold it to his ear, and if the young one makes a crackling noise, and that pretty briskly, he may conclude it will soon chip; when it has so chipped, if the young one should not proceed in its endeavours to break the shell as much as the Fancier thinks it ought to have done in the time, does not continue to make so brisk a noise, it is a sure sign the young one is weakly and almost exhausted, requiring immediate assistance; in that case he should gently dent his thumb or finger nail, or the head of a pin, in a circle round the egg, in the same manner as if it had been done from within by the beak of the young one itself; remembering to let in a little air, which may be safely done at the past where the beak lies, and no blood will issue from it, by which means it will be greatly assisted in extricating itself, and many a valuable bird may be thus saved; particular care should be taken not to pick a hole in any other part of the shell than above mentioned or make it bleed, although some Fanciers say they have taken them out of the shell and they have bled like pigs, it is extremely dangerous. If it has been moving about in the shell so long as to have absorbed all the moisture or blood, and has by its circuitous motion rolled up the little caul or membrane in which it is enveloped whilst in the egg, it may be safely set at liberty, taking care to expose it to the air as short a time as possible. When it is disengaged from the shell, a portion of the yolk will be seen attached to its navel, which will nourish it for a day or two, if the old ones should not happen to feed it immediately. It happens from some cause, the young ones do not get fed, in these cases if the Fancier is anxious to save the produce of the pair, and has no means of shifting them under another pair, he must take some crumb of bread, and some yolk of an egg boiled hard, and masticate them in his mouth till they become of the proper consistence to pass into the crop of the young bird, by applying its beak to his mouth it will in general suck its crop full very readily, by the time he has repeated this a day or so, the chances are greatly in favor of the old ones feeding it, either from a more abundant supply of soft meat, or from some other cause; if the Fancier neglects this too long, the young bird will become weak and will not thrive upon his experiment, even though it should have taken some of this artificial food into its crop in the way before mentioned; when once the old ones have fed it after him, it is astonishing to see the alteration that takes place in the young bird for the better, in a few hours.

442. If one should hatch considerably before the other, which it will do if the old ones have rather sat upon than merely stood over the first egg, it should happen to be a bad head and beak bird, which is not promising, kill it, although an Almond; take the chance of what the other egg will produce, it being in his favour; the produce will be a short-faced good head and beak bird. The reason I recommend this is, the rough strong bird first hatched will acquire too much strength, get all the food, and starve the one most wished to be raised. You do not stand in need of rough Almonds any more than queer kites. Should you have plenty of feeders that can bring it up, you

may, and make a feeder of it; do not hazard the rearing of a valuable bird through it. The more you kill, comparatively speaking, however strange it may appear, my experience teaches the greater will be your gain; otherwise, you will raise the rough long-faced, and lose the valuable short-faced birds. I advise you to have plenty of feeders.

OF SHIFTING.

443. Hatching a little wonder is one thing, to raise it another. In a former part of this work I laid great stress on shifting, when you consider how early the old birds begin to decline sitting on their young; this is more particularly the case with the Almond Tumblers, who will rarely bring up their own young, except in the height of summer, by reason of their quitting them sooner to go to nest again. They begin to get restless as early as the sixth day; the ninth or tenth they will be off the nest for an hour or more at a time; get calling to nest again; the young ones left exposed to the air before they have a feather upon them, die of cold with their crops full. To obviate this, he should shift them under another pair that have not hatched so long; kill the young ones he takes away from such other pair, if he has not a shift for them; in doing which he get these shifted young ones an additional supply of warmth, from being sat on, and of soft meat, from the fresh pair not having hatched or fed so long, consequently their soft meat not being exhausted. Some Fanciers are very unwilling to kill a bird, by which means they frequently lose two; surely, it is better to kill one to save the other, than not to kill it, and so lose both.

444. If he has not Almonds enough, it is better to get some common Tumblers for feeders or nurses, such as Baldheads or Beards, by killing their young, which he will do without reluctance; he may be certain of bringing up his young Almonds; if he is judicious, he will generally have a succession of feeders, by taking away the hens of his feeders, and confining them awhile. When any of his best Almonds are within a day or two of laying, turn the feeder hen to her mate; they will go to nest immediately, and lay in a week or less after the others, by which means he will get a certain shift for his young Almonds at the distance of six, seven, or eight days, just the time the old ones begin to desert them, and thus bring up a pair of good birds, without such feeders he probably would have lost. He should let the common birds feed their own young a day or two after hatching to bring on their soft meat.

445. There are Fanciers who by no means approve of shifting more than once, if it can be avoided. Sometimes the course of shifting throughout the whole will necessarily be such it cannot be prevented. Too great a supply of soft meat is very detrimental—frequently fatal, causing the canker or putresence in the throat of the young bird. It is necessary to give the young ones fresh nests when you shift them. I will throw out a hint—I hope you have no insects; if you scrape your aviary, loft, or breeding places daily, by attention to these rules you will not be troubled with insects in any material degree. The best way is to burn the old nest; a few hot cinders dropped into the nest pan and shaken round will kill all that remain in the porous parts of the pan. Some Fanciers assert, shifting the nests of the young birds is apt to give them the scowers; I cannot say I ever experienced that to be the case; on the contrary, they have always thriven greatly. At the same time it would be wise to put the shifted birds into the feeders' pans for a day or two, for fear the old birds should smell the powder. Wha ooch! to you if they do.

OF MOULTING.

446. This, though not a disease, but natural to all the feathered kind, is more fatal to the Almond Tumbler than any disease that afflicts them; they moult, or, in other words, cast their old feathers and acquire a new set every year. Numbers of them die under this painful operation of nature, before they can accomplish the change; most of them are rendered more or less unwell, particularly the hens, which are generally more delicate and less capable of bearing such a change; if they are old it is mostly fatal to them. They begin to moult about May or June, by casting the flight feathers, and no further moult is perceptible till the middle of July or so, when the body feathers begin to appear pretty thick about the aviary or loft; in August they get considerably into moult; in the month of September they are deep in moult, many of them being very ragged about the breast and hackle; some of their necks are featherless, full of

stumps of new feathers, which gives them a very disagreeable appearance for a short time, greatly altering the proportions of their shape, disguising them so much the Fancier scarcely knows his own birds. Should he chance to go out of town for a month or six weeks at this particular season, he would on his return have great difficulty in distinguishing one from another, from the great alteration that takes place, for in general they acquire more colour and get darker every year, particularly the cock birds. They do not get completely out of moult till November; I have seen them moulting even later than this. Towards the close of the season, when the birds are in the worst stage of their moulting, and the weather is gradually getting colder, warmth is necessary in order to assist them in casting their feathers kindly. Notwithstanding this, I do not think it right to shut up the aviary or loft, running the risk of affecting the health of the birds in general, making them tender on account of a few that are not so well as the others, for air is as necessary as warmth; such as are unusually ill should be taken and put in a pen, in a room where there is a fire, giving them a pill or two of aloes and rhubarb with some seed. If they do not begin to moult freely with this treatment, some of their rump and tail feathers should be pulled out, which will sometimes set them into moult; it will be proper to give all the birds a handful of hemp or rapeseed every day, which will warm them and make them comfortable, and greatly assist by such warmth to cast the feather.

447. Some birds that are delicate will not blow their flights and tails kindly, which will be seen on examining them; they will be found covered with a sheath or cylinder to the very tip or extremity of what should be the feather, giving it the appearance of a thin skewer; when this is perceived it is a sign of weakness; the bird should be kept warm; if it could be spared from the loft, the feather will blow freely, as warmth assists the feather in blowing, so cold or damp weather will make the husk or sheath tough, and prevent its drying and scaling off, as it will do in hot weather; the feather will perish. If the bird cannot be spared from the aviary or loft to be kept warm, the husk should be peeled off as far as it is tolerably dry; care must be taken the feather is not pulled out, as the one that succeeds it, if any does succeed, will be worse than the one so drawn; most likely be nothing more than a mere stump or perished feather; care must be taken not to make it bleed. The best way I have found to moult the birds was to imagine I was fatting the birds for the spit, believing a bird would not die of moulting provided it was fat; on the contrary, I am certain a poor, lean, emaciated, half-starved bird cannot by any means throw its feather; the only way I ever found to cause it to moult was to get it in high condition; then it moulted without any further trouble of mine. I believe I could never get the birds so fat as when I gave them wheat. If you want to get your birds well through the moult, get them as fat as you possibly can, and a little saffron in their water is likewise very beneficial.

OF VERMIN.

448. These birds like every other kind, have their peculiar species of vermin, the most troublesome are a sort of louse, not unlike in their colour to those found upon persons of filthy habits, of a different shape, being nearly round, about half the size; they run incredibly swift, on turning up the feathers on the belly, disappear in an instant; they harbour in the short feathers on the underpart of the rump, close to the quills on the tail feathers; are to be found in greater abundance on the belly, near the vent, where the bird cannot reach them. If the bird is very foul, the roots of the feathers will be clotted with nits or eggs, and swarms of these insects will run away in every direction the moment the feathers are turned up; they also inhabit the neck, where they likewise deposit their eggs in great abundance, being there safe from destruction till they arrive at maturity, when they descend to the belly part for sustenance. Birds with wry, crooked, or hooked beaks are most subject to these vermin, being from those defects less able to destroy them, and should therefore be particularly attended to.

449. The best remedy, beyond all doubt, is the *unguent. mercur.*, commonly called blue ointment, rubbed on the parts, not in such quantity as to affect the bird, a small portion is sufficient; this should not be rubbed about the head or neck, only on the belly; the clotted or nitted feathers pulled off, will clear the way for the application of the ointment; by the next day he will not be able to find any vermin of that kind upon the birds. They should be examined now and then, as the nits in the neck, which

were not affected with the unction, will be continually coming to life and create a new brood, and overrun the birds again very shortly; therefore, as often as any signs of vermin appear, rub a little ointment on the belly to receive them, which will infallibly kill all that touch it, by these means the Fancier will always keep his birds clear.

450. This is particularly necessary for the hens, as many of them suffer, and are exhausted so much by this little blood sucker, they will not breed; upon cleansing them, they recover their health and breed as well as ever. I have seen birds so devoured with them, as to have large crusts or scabs formed by the ichor that flows from the wounds these little animals inflict upon their bellies, under which scabs, forming a sort of canopy, they run for shelter, and remain in safety when the bird is picking itself; another purpose is also answered by these incrustations, covering parts of the belly of the bird in a circle beyond where the wounds are, by rendering the parts so covered softer to the piercers of these little insects, and affording them a more ready as well as safe opportunity of satisfying the cravings of their voracious appetites. The blue ointment not only destroys the vermin, heals the wounds under the crusts before mentioned in a day or two. Some Fanciers are afraid of venturing upon this remedy, and have recourse to usual ones of snuff, tobacco dust, snuff and hog's lard, smoking their feathers, &c. I am satisfied these are of little, if any, use, because they are not fatal to the insect if they come in contact with it; besides, they are troublesome and prejudicial in the application, by getting into the bird's eyes, nostrils, &c., disfiguring them and discolouring their plumage, which must be turned back to get the snuff down to the quills of the feathers.

451. I knew a good Fancier that always used a strong decoction of tobacco water. I formerly used sweet oil; the heat of the body caused the oil to spread all over the skin of the bird; the insects could not escape. I fancied the oil rotted the roots of the feather and caused them to come off. I was informed if I used animal oil instead of vegetable it would not happen; such as neat's-foot oil; I think this worth trying. Of late I have used nothing but the blue ointment; have anointed upwards of one hundred at the same time, only on the belly, never having used it on the neck; never saw any of them tremulous or paralytic. There are Fanciers who have ventured to rub some of the ointment about the neck feathers: if the Fancier does, it must be done cautiously and sparingly, otherwise will affect the birds so far as to make them tremulous and paralytic, and even kill them. I therefore recommend the young Fancier not to apply the ointment to the neck at the same time he does to the belly; wait two or three days first.

452. I am bound to acknowledge, after mature consideration, I cannot possibly do better than give verbatim, some of the remarks on the management of the Almond Tumbler, contained in a work now out of print, dedicated to the "Gentlemen of the Columbarian Society." Those remarks are so true, from observations, I shall add a few ideas, which I trust will not be found unacceptable or unworthy of following the excellent remarks I here allude.

THE LOFT

453 Should be very airy, at the top of the house; if it is large, it would be better to divide it, as the Fancier will find two rooms very convenient upon many accounts, particularly in cross-matching, in the middle of the breeding season, if the produce of his birds should not please him; he will find his birds more familiar if they have not too much wing room. When he wishes to catch any of them, he should entice them into the area with a little rape or hemp seed, by which he will avoid hurrying them about the room, may catch them at pleasure, and prevent the probability of a hen who is near laying dropping her egg on the ground. The area should, if convenient, have a south-west aspect, that the birds may have the benefit of the Sun in the Spring mornings, when they are near laying, which will assist them if the weather should set in cold soon after matching. Besides, it is great service to the young ones as soon as they are able to fly to it; if convenient, I should recommend a separate room or loft for them, as soon as they are fit to be drafted off; they will certainly thrive better, where they have no old birds to contend with, and knock them about. The pens should be two feet square at the least, with fronts to them, and a small place to go in and out at, which should be made to fasten up as occasion requires. The lighter the work is,

consistent with the proper degree of strength, the better. The work should be let in, in order to give it a neat appearance. There are people in the Fancy who are carpenters understand that sort of work better than a man who is not a Fancier. The bars should not be more than two inches asunder. I prefer a shelf midway between the flooring and the ceiling of the pen, big enough to hold a nest pan, for the birds to pitch upon when they fly up to it; by this means the youngest may always be prevented getting into the new nest with the old ones when they are gone to nest again; thus many a pair of eggs may be saved. When the old ones begin to leave their young, which they will generally do in nine or ten days, and frequently sooner, remove the pan with the young ones from the shelf to the floor of the pen, the old ones will not not forsake them; continue to feed them as before; the hen will sit on them at night as usual. A few days afterwards, when you perceive they are anxious to go to nest again, put them a fresh pan on the shelf, which they will readily take to. This plan may be pursued all through the season, and save a vast deal of trouble and loss. Though I have said it is desirable to have a warm aspect for the areas, I by no means wish it to be understood that I think the loft should be kept warm; on the contrary, it should have a free current of air, and in winter, except in very coarse days, I think the birds cannot be kept too cool, being convinced it braces them, particularly the hens. It is only at the laying time, in the Spring, I recommend the loft being shut up, to keep out the cold searching winds, as the hens are at this time frequently very ill.

454. The loft and areas should be scraped every day, kept thorough clean: the birds will be much more healthy, never get clogged with dirt: the Fancier will have greater pleasure in going into his loft: besides all this, it will prevent the possibility of fleas and other vermin infesting. A little water sprinkled on the floor in hot Summer months, provided the Fancier does not gravel his loft. Some use this method of gravelling the floor, which I disapprove on account of the dust it makes, the harbour it affords for vermin, the birds should always have access to gravel.

455. Above all take care the loft is not infested with rats or mice; the former will not only destroy the eggs; the young ones also, and even the old ones if no young ones are to be had. A good cat, trained up in the loft and well disciplined, will remedy all this. I recommend a boar cat; he should be castrated, that he may not be hankering to get out after the females, or entice others to the loft. A she cat is objectionable on the same account as an uncut boar cat is. These are more formidable enemies in their natural state than any other; the loft, on that account, should, if possible, be inaccessible to the approach of cats. If this cannot be managed, they must be trapped, and all means used to prevent their ravages, not omitting to make the bars of the areas proof against their paws.

OF PENNING THE BIRDS,

456. The birds being paired, the next care must be make them acquainted with their respective pens; for this purpose they should be penned up for a few days, or longer if necessary, in the pens designed for them, during which time they will match strong, and become well acquainted with their habitations. The Fancier should then begin by opening two of the pens that are most remote from each other; the birds, finding no entrance to any other, will readily learn to know the place they came out of. When these two pair are well acquainted with their pens, they should be fastened up again, and two other pair let out, remember to let out such as are most distant from each other, by which means they will be less liable to mistake each others, home. He must proceed till the whole are well acquainted with their respective abodes. Care should be taken to prevent a cock getting master of two pens; if once he gets a habit of going into another birds pen, be assured he will never rest till he has driven that cock and hen from their house, spoilt their eggs, or killed their young ones. When this is become very troublesome, the only remedy is, to put him and his hen into another room, for it is almost impossible to break him off this trick if once he gets master. Thus the advantage of dividing the loft is clearly shown; without this convenience, he must be under the necessity of keeping that pair of birds constantly penned up, which would be very prejudicial to their health and fill them with vermin. During this period, the young Fancier must bestow a little time in watching them, and putting

them a few times into their own pens, if they are at a loss to find them. By attending to these rules, the bird will soon become steady and settled. Particular care should also be taken always to give the cock the same habitation he had last year ; if not, he will get master of two pens, and occasion the difficulty just mentioned. The same care is not necessary with regard to the hens, they will always follow their cocks when thoroughly matched.

OF THE NEST PANS.

457. Every pair of birds should be provided with a nest pan, which should be put on the shelf in the pen, the birds made to go to nest there, as pointed out in my observations upon making the pens. These pans should be about eight inches in diameter at the top, and between three and four inches in depth ; they should not be perpendicular, but slope from the top to the base ; should be rough on the inside, for the better retention of the straw. These can be made at any pottery, upon giving a model or proper instructions how they are to be made. Some Fanciers have used little nests in the shape of a pan, made with straw bands, after the fashion of a beehive ; these are objectionable on account of the harbour they afford for vermin, from which it would be impossible ever to clear them.

MARKS

BY WHICH TO ASCERTAIN THE COLOURS OF YOUNG BIRDS IN THE NEST.

548. If the beak has no mark on it, is quite white, the bird will be an Almond.

If the beak is white, and has a little patch of black somewhere about it, this will probably be a Splash ; should it be an Almond, it will most likely have a great deal of black about it.

If the beak be crossed on the point with a black stripe, or cross, rather inclining to blue, this bird will be a black, not a Kite.

If with a deep blue mark, it will be a blue, which colour is very objectionable; if the pair should throw this colour more than once, they should be parted ; were they mine, I should part them the first time.

If with a black mark, rather inclining to, or having a faint tinge of red, it will be a Kite, and most likely a rich one.

If with a slatey-coloured mark it will be a Dun.

If with a straw-colour, a Yellow.

If with a deeper straw-colour, inclining to red, an Agate. And,

If with a deep red, it will be a Red, or Red-mottled bird.

459. By minute attention to these marks, the Fancier will seldom fail in his prediction of the colour, long before any signs of feathers are visible.

460. With respect to such young birds turning out good or bad, cannot be reduced to so great a certainty ; they alter so much in the nest, that a person would sometimes scarce think it was the same bird he had seen a day or two before, was he not certain no one could have changed it. These alterations are sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse, so there is no saying, with any precision, which will, or will not, be a good bird until after it has moulted, when the bird is seen in full beauty and to the best advantage. Notwithstanding this, I am inclined to think a good Fancier, who has made his observations, can give a pretty good guess, so far as head and beak only are concerned, because they are apparent, and the other properties occult, and not to be discovered till the bird arrives at maturity. If the young is chubby about the beak, has little space between the head and the wattle, he may be assured he will be a short-faced bird, and may, in general, tell whether the beak will be coarse or fine.

OF DRAFTING

THE YOUNG ONES INTO ANOTHER LOFT.

461. This is very desirable, provided the Fancier is not straightened for room. As soon as the young ones feed themselves they should be taken into the loft provided for

them, have plenty of gravel, their area kept clean, they will pick themselves, bask in the sun, and thrive prodigiously.

462. Their food should be the best tares; if sound beans could be procured small enough I should prefer them. It will be better to let them have both. I do not think tares alone a wholesome diet, being apt to make them scour.

463. An additional reason for drafting the young ones off, is, the old ones should not continue feeding them till they are on the point of hatching again, which they will do, even though they can feed themselves, which is injurious to the old ones, as they have no time to recruit from their labour, which, in feeding two or three large birds on the floor, as is often the case, is great, and pull the birds down very much, and throws them out of condition, particularly the hens, who are not equal to it; have frequently seen them ill from so great an exertion: on taking them in hand have found them considerably wasted: by taking off the young birds, have been remedied in a few days; the old ones have picked up their flesh as before. For want of an additional room to draft them off, the Fancier must, if his loft is divided, put them on the contrary side, where they will be prevented teazing the old ones, and learn to feed well in two or three days.

OF BARREN BIRDS.

464. It sometimes happens the Fancier has a pair of birds in his loft, which, from age or other defect of nature, will not breed. This is more frequently attributable to the hen, as she is more liable to be weakened from too much breeding and laying too quickly; perhaps not having had sufficient care taken to sit and feed her off. If she lays regularly, the eggs do not come to perfection; after the usual time of sitting it is clear it is not her fault, but must be attributed to some defect in the cock. If she does not lay, and only wants to be continually going to nest, it is her fault. The best way is to give her a pair of eggs, let her sit on them, provide her a young one to feed off when her time for sitting is out, and repeat this when she wishes to go to nest again for a few times; if the hen is curable without flying her, this will make her lay again. If she is valuable, the Fancier should send her to some friend in the country who keeps Pigeons, match her to one of the common birds, and let her fly; if she is not past breeding, it will bring her round. When the Fancier has a hen of this description, the cock is not too good to lose the use of in this way, he may make them very useful as feeders, by sitting them at almost any time he wishes, which office, by a little management, they will very readily perform, and when their time of sitting is expired, will be ready to take a pair of good young ones from some other pair that are beginning to desert them. Should he not like to keep a pair of this description, he must discard the faulty bird; before he does this, he should examine to see if it has any vermin, as they are sometimes the cause of barrenness.

OF WASHING.

465. The Fancier should take notice, nothing contributes more to cleanliness than frequent washings, in which the birds delight amazingly, plunging into the water with great eagerness. This must not be done in a slovenly way; if it is, they will not be benefitted. The pan should be put into the area; the birds made to wash there, that the waste water may run away; not suffered to wash in the loft—make a wet place that will not be dry in three or four days, by which they will draggle their flights and make themselves more dirty instead of cleaner. The water should not be given more than twice a week, or three times at most; if they have it too frequently they will not use it. Another inconvenience, some would be washing one day, some another, the area would never be dry. Nothing soils their plumage so much as constant wet, particularly their flights and tails. I think the cistern water for this purpose is best, because it is softer, and more likely to assist in removing the filth from their plumage than pump water.

OF FLYING THE BIRDS.

466. Some Fanciers prefer flying their birds; to this I cannot assent either in town or country, more particularly in town, as they are extremely weak and timid; the

least blast of wind would blow them down the chimneys; or one bird playing up against the other would have the same effect; the Fancier would be continually losing birds of value, to his great mortification; be continually getting into disgrace with his neighbours, perhaps into difficulties; add to this the birds would be ten times more dirty—washing is of no use—therefore, as no advantage can be derived from it, I object to it entirely. In the country it is different, because it is clean, and may benefit the plumage; even there I would not fly them constantly, as it tends to make them coarse, which is the reverse of what is wished to be in these birds, viz.—delicacy; I should therefore fly them only occaionally, which would answer all the purposes of keeping them healthy and beautiful in plumage. A further reason is, it tends to make them wild, instead of what is desirable—perfectly familiar. Some have doubted whether the Almonds will tumble in the air, when flying, like the common Tumblers. I can solve that doubt, by assuring them they will. I once had one of my own that tumbled remarkably well, and very clean, never losing any way in the air, so as to be distanced by the rest of the flight, which is a great perfection in tumbling.

OF LOAM.

467. The birds should be furnished with loam, of which they are remarkably fond, which should be put into a garden or flower pot, well soaked. When the water has drained off, and the loam become solid, lay the pot on its side; they will eat the loam greedily, especially if there is a little salt in it, of which they are immoderately fond; as they are of a hot nature, and sufficiently thirsty, I do not approve of increasing thirst by artificial means, unless some good reason could be given for it; I confess I am at a loss to find one. Some Fanciers say, obliging them to drink is very useful to them. I cannot agree with them; it seems to me reason a bird will drink sufficient if it can get it, without any unnatural means to provoke it. There are loam pots to be had at the earthenware shops, made on purpose; they are of a conical form, and part of the cone or cap takes off for the reception of the loam, and there are holes in the side for the birds to get at it.

468. I am of opinion loam should be given only in the summer time or breeding season, not in the winter, having reason to think it occasions the roop, or at least promotes, retarding the cure when the bird is troubled with that complaint. The reason, as it occurs to me, seems feasible enough: the roop being a sort of cold in the head, and the nose, or nostrils rather, having a communication with the mouth, and being in that complaint always stuffed with rheum or phlegm, I think it is fair to presume the constant eating of cold loam may sometimes occasion the roop, or at least may tend to make it worse, when a bird is already affected with it. I used formerly to suffer my birds to eat it all winter; they all had this complaint more or less. It afterwards occurred to me this might possibly be the reason: since that time I have not allowed them any after the cold weather set in; have had the satisfaction of finding that none of my birds have been affected with it since, in a general way, only now and then one. Some Fanciers make a composition of loam, gravel, and mortar, adding salt. I think it preferable to give them each of these (except the salt) in their crude or natural state.

GRAVEL.

469. Is essentially necessary for the birds to have always by them; unless they have, or some substitute in lieu of it, as sand or mould, I am inclined to think they would not be healthy. It is requisite for the purpose of grinding and digesting the food, which enters the stomach from the crop in a whole though soft state. Were it not for the particles of gravel, little stones, and other hard substances which they pick up, which passes through the gizzard with the food, assisting maceration and digestion, I should think birds would not only become unhealty and indolent, but not live in our lofts to that age which they frequently do—some living with us nine, ten, and even eleven years.

MORTAR.

470. From the eagerness with which these birds search for, and from the avidity with which they devour mortar, one would think it was as necessary to their existence as gravel reflection will teach us that it is not. Before the mortar can reach the

stomach it must be rendered soft, if not entirely dissolved, thereby becoming unfit for the purpose of grinding the food, which is the use of the small stones in the gravel; it may possibly, from its heat, assist in promoting maceration and digestion. Some Fanciers assert it will harden the egg-shell, when a hen is near laying; to this I cannot readily subscribe, conceiving mortar, from its hot nature, would rather corrode than indurate the shell. I do not, however, perceive any ill effects arise from their eating it; on that account, perhaps, it may be fair to conclude it is of some service to them. There is no doubt their fondness for mortar arises from the quantity of saltpetre, or saline particles, which it contains, their immoderate partiality for salt being universally known and admitted, I should think, although they are so fond of it, it is not necessary to their existence. The mortar should not be new, but got on purpose from the rubbish of some old house or wall that is pulling down, which has lost the greater part of its original heat, which is therefore preferable to fresh made mortar.

OF THEIR FOOD.

471. I shall now call the young Fanciers' attention to a matter which is most material of all to the health of his birds, upon which the speedy and vigorous increase of their young greatly depends—I mean their food.

472. If the throats of the young birds were not so small, I have no hesitation in saying, beans of the best quality, small as they could be obtained, would be the best food that could possibly be given them. Were it not for the difficulty old birds have in feeding their young upon beans, I would never give them anything else. This might be objected to by some, from a supposition that beans alone would not so readily furnish a sufficiency of soft meat, from their solidity. I think this reason would not bear them out, as it is notorious the birds of the common Fanciers are fed upon nothing else. They are always furnished with as much soft meat as those that are otherwise fed. In the breeding season, the Almond Tumbler should be supplied also with good sound old tares; to the hoppers containg these, as well as the beans, they should have free access, that they may satisfy themselves as often as occasion requires, which is almost incessant whilst they are feeding their young, being very voracious feeders, which may be accounted for from their great heat of constitution, the food being quickly digested, converted into excrement, and continually passing through them. Care should be taken not to purchase such beans and peas as have been at sea and damaged with salt water, as they will infallibly scour or purge the birds, and probably kill some of them. In order to ascertain this, the Fancier ought always to put some of them into his mouth and chew them, by which means he will readily discover it.

473. In order, in some measure, to prove my argument as to beans being the best food, and preferable to any other, I shall state the observations I have made upon the excrement of the birds as soon as voided.

474. I have noticed the excrement of birds that have been fed upon ordinary beans and found it was tolerably hard and good; that it was not attended with much mucus or slime; from which I infer the food was not sufficiently nutritious te afford the proper quantum of mucus necessary for the easy discharge of the fœces; the fœces of birds fed upon prime hard old beans, have been very different; according to my idea have worn a much more healthy appearance than the former; the fœces of birds so fed have been voided in a solid lump, surrounded with a plentiful quantum of fine oily, or slimy mucus, from whence I think the operation of digestion is better performed by the best food; consequently, the birds must be more healthy.

475. Tares, if of ever so good quality, are very improper to feed birds upon alone. They are very laxative; never produce a solid excrement, which, in a measure, tends to prove my argument as to the superiority of the first-mentioned food. Whoever has made observation upon the ordure of birds fed upon tares alone, will, I trust, allow it is never solid; generally of a pasty consistence, and sometimes very thin; I think it thence follows, that birds in this constant state of laxation, can never be so hearty and vigourous as those fed upon good old beans, which produce a solid excrement.

476. From what I have above advanced, it will be supposed I prefer beans alone for

their constant food, when the breeding season is over ; I certainly do. I attribute my having been particularly fortunate, to the observation of the before-mentioned rules ; may venture to say, although my birds are kept in the heart of this great city, enveloped in constant clouds of smoke from chimnies, foundries, furnaces, &c., no Fancier's birds are more healthy ; few have raised so many young ones in proportion to their stock, or lost so few old ones from diseases, &c. The only inconvenience which I complain of is, the impossibility of keeping the plumage of my birds so clean and beautiful as those kept in a clearer atmosphere, which is certainly to their disadvantage, and a great detraction from the beauty of their colours.

OF THEIR DRINK.

477. I prefer pump water for their drink, conceiving it to be more bracing and less impregnated with animalculæ than cistern or river water, consequently less subject to putrescence in the hot weather. They are great drinkers, not drinking like fowls by little sips, but in continued draughts like quadrupeds, moving their mouths very quick, and swallowing the water greedily. Care should be taken to keep their fountains or bottles clean ; it is not at all improbable that diseases may arise from the foul state of a fountain, which will become greatly furred and stink, when the weather is hot, if not frequently cleaned. The fountains or bottles should not be filled too full in hot weather, so that the water may be soon drank and replaced with fresh, which will prevent the possibility of its becoming putrid. Some put a lump of chalk into their water ; this may be very well where there is none but river water to be had. I should think no great degree of astringency could be communicated to the water by it. If any scourings take place among the old birds, the Fancier may break plenty of chalk on the floor, which they will eat readily ; as to the young ones, he must adopt the remedy laid down on treating of this complaint.

478. They are exceedingly fond of urine ; will drink it greedily, if they can get it. Some Fanciers soak their loam with it, which induces them to eat a great deal of it. They will scarcely ever leave the place where it is to be obtained. This may be very well for those Fanciers who keep common birds and fly them ; I object to it for the Almond Tumbler, on the same ground as salt, viz., creating an artificial thirst to birds already sufficiently thirsty. Pigeons drink much at all times, particularly when feeding large young ones ; they run to the water, take five or six hearty draughts, and immediately feed their young ; this assists in soaking the food ; also in the easy discharge of it from the crop of the old into those of the young.

OF PARTING THE BIRDS

AFTER THE BREEDING SEASON.

479. I am a great advocate for this measure, having found my account in it, thoroughly convinced of its beneficial effects, great utility, and convenience ; I shall convince the young Fancier of the propriety of this plan, by a few observations. In the first place, a great deal of trouble is saved to the Fancier, by the impossibility of the birds going to nest, which they will, if not parted, in spite of all his efforts to prevent them ; he is then under the necessity of continuing them another round, as the Fanciers term it, (though he is convinced of the impropriety of it, at that late season of the year) to the great detriment of the hens, and without a chance of bringing up what they may happen to hatch. In the next place, should the weather set in cold, the birds remain a little inactive for the moment as it were, the first warm day that comes, though in December or January, they are all alive, calling to nest, copulating, &c., which is very prejudicial to both, particularly to the hens, it tends to weaken and enfeeble them, and make them what is called pappy, which is caused by their being over salacious, having too frequent connection with the males without going to nest, as they would do if the weather was not so cold. Thus we plainly see, the only advantange to be derived from keeping the birds together in the winter, is, ironically speaking, to spoil the hens.

480. And further, as few Fanciers match their birds in the manner they were matched

the preceding season, from the number of young ones they have bred, which by the following season are become matchable, and occasion the necessity of altering the old matches, and from other causes, the advantage of parting the birds in the winter, is here, I think, particularly conspicuous ; it will enable him to cross-match all his birds without the least difficulty, as they will cross-match more readily when they have been asunder two or three months, than when they have been kept together

481. When I have occasion to cross-match two or three pairs of birds in the height of the breeding season, on account of their produce not pleasing me, I have frequently had difficulty in obtaining my point, from the strong recollection the birds have of each other ; though I have at last succeeded, the moment the hens have been turned into the loft they have flown to their former pens and mates, it was a considerable time before they were reconciled to their new mates and abodes. To prevent this, the new matched pair should be fastened in their own pen, taking care the cock has the same pen as he had before. This evil will be remedied by parting the loft, the Fancier may then put a pair or two of the cross-matched birds into the contrary side to which they have been accustomed, by this means avoid the intercourse that must take place between the new matched birds, and their former mates.

482. Another thing is necessary to be attended to by the Fancier, is cross-matching, viz.—he should have two or three matching pens in some part of his house, if not too inconvenient, in order that the birds he is about to cross-match, may be out of the hearing of their former mates, and of the other birds in the loft, which will greatly facilitate their speedy matching to their new mates. They will frequently be a long time in matching in the loft, where they can both see and hear each other, sometimes will not match at all.

483. If they continue obstinate, a handful of rape or hemp seed should be given them occasionally ; if the cock is violent, fights his hen, an open lath partition should be put across the pen, to separate them, that they may only see each other, they will soon match by this method, which will be ascertained by the hen sweeping her tail, nodding her head, &c., which is called shewing.

OF THEIR DUNG.

484. Their Dung is so valuable, in so great requisition, if it is preserved genuine, as little straw and other rubbish as possible suffered to get amongst it, tanners and others will give five shillings per sack for it, will fetch it whenever they are informed there is any ready for them. It is used by the tanners to separate the hair from the hides, being of an extremely hot nature, answering their purpose better than other things they make use of. It is also an excellent manure for cold, wet, and clayey land, if it could be procured in any quantity, the farmers of such sorts of land would give almost any price for it.

OF THEIR DISEASES.

485. The Almond Tumblers are not naturally liable to many diseases ; the majority of those which do attack them, I attribute to a want of cleanliness, and good management in their masters, if taken care of in these respects, they will live nine or ten years, and sometimes longer, and are generally taken off at last by the moult.

486. The first and most fatal that has come under my observation is, what is commonly understood and called by the name of the Canker, (see paragraph 625.) This disorder is much confined to the young birds in the nest, does not very frequently attack the old ones, as it originates in the œsophagus or throat, it seems to me to arise from the putrefaction of a redundancy of the soft meat, that putrescency communicating itself to the throat, causing a core, I am inclined to think, it ought with greater propriety to be called a sore throat, and perhaps, from the intolerable fœtor emitted from the throat and crop, not improperly a putrid sore throat ; if the complaint is suffered to go on without any attempt to relieve the bird, the core will enlarge, the throat swell, and the bird soon die of suffocation.

487. Some people pick off the core, or cut it out, this is of no use, but fatal, as the sore soon becomes larger than before ; could it all be cut clean out, the bird would die shortly, if not in a few minutes.

488. I have more than once opened the throat of a bird that died of this disease, all the information I could obtain was, the core adhered so tight to the fleshy or muscular parts of the throat, it appeared like a part of the flesh, being as it was incorporated with it, except the colour of the core, being of a yellow, distinguished it from the throat itself; the core was perfectly hard, would separate from the flesh, by pulling, or picking it with a knife, this was with difficulty, on account of the adhesion, when it did separate, it left a large and deep hole. I have been surprised I never have discovered any pus in the throat, which induces me to think no suppuration takes place, this is probably because the bird must die of suffocation from the swelling of the throat, before the matter can have had sufficient time to form, and discharge itself.

489. My researches, therefore, have not been attended with any certain success, but have left me still to conjecture.

490. One thing I have ascertained, to cut or pick the core is fatal sooner or later, from the great quantity of blood the bird loses from these operations.

491. Although, as I have observed, this disease is more particularly incident to young birds in the nest, yet it is by no means uncommon in old birds; it does not in general attack the throat, as in the young ones; appears in a different way; usually comes about the mouth and beak; is not to be discovered very readily at first; when it begins to enlarge, the bird will not be able to close its mouth; seems as if it were panting for breath. On examing it the core will soon be discovered. I once had a bird that was attacked with this complaint: I discovered a core as big as a pea on the outside of the beak or lower jaw, which was much swollen; it was with great pain and difficulty the bird could swallow. This had no doubt been some time forming; it soon gave way on applying the remedy I have under written.

492. Not being able to trace the cause of this disorder, I must endeavour to make some amends to the Fancier, by communicating a cure when the effect is produced. which, if attended to frequently, and patiently administered, will, I have no doubt, generally succeed.

493. I cannot describe the quantums and proportion of the ingredients in the way a medical man would do; I must content myself with telling the Fancier in a plain way —to take

494. A half-pint phial, fill it three parts full of the best vinegar, drop into it as many drops of the spirit of vitriol as will make it sufficiently pungent, which may be ascertained by trying it on the tongue a few times, sweeten it with a little honey, which will make it adhere to the throat, shake them well together; take a feather, and anoint the inside of the throat of the bird affected, two or three times a day, and in general a cure will be accomplished; hang the phial up in the loft for future occasions. I do not perceive the specific loses its virtue by keeping.

495. This complaint is contagious; it generally attacks a number of young birds at the same time; is most prevalent in the hot months. Formerly, this complaint used to infest my loft every season, by which I lost many good birds; from what cause it arose I never could discover; the same degree of cleanliness having been observed; the birds having been treated in every respect the same then, as since, as far as I can recollect. I have not had a single instance of the kind for many years. The only possible conjecture I can make is, that possibly I might not have been so particular about the food I then gave them. Unquestionably, the quality of the food is very material in the prevention of complaints.

THE ROOP.

496. The next disorder that comes under our notice is the roop. This, as I before observed, is a kind of cold or influenza; is more frequent in cold and damp weather, therefore in such weather the loft should be kept clear of dung, which, if suffered to remain, will increase the damp, making the birds worse, and perhaps spread the complaint through the whole loft. This disorder is also contagious, therefore, on its first appearance, the infected bird or birds should be taken away, kept warm, should occasionally have a handful of seed given to them. Some put rue in their water: I do not

think this is of any use. The only remedy I am acquainted with is to keep them warm, and squeeze the rheum out of their nostrils, by pressing with the thumb and finger, at the same time opening the mouth : a lump of rheum like a jelly will be seen obtruding itself from the orifice, which should be removed ; the bird will then breathe freely. This should be repeated twice a day, and a pill of bitter aloes, the size of a pea, given once in two days, which will warm the inside. The bird will soon recover. A few pepper corns are not amiss to be given the intervening days. This is by no means a dangerous complaint, if attended to when discovered. It is similar to a violent cold and stoppage in the head,

THE VERTIGO, OR MEAGRIMS.

497. These birds are subject to a complaint called the Vertigo or Meagrims, which is an involuntary turning or twisting of the head towards the back, accompanied with an involuntary blinking of the eyes ; the bird flutters and flies indiscriminately against anything that comes in its way. It is very disagreeable and painful to see them in this situation. I have yet to find out a cure for this complaint ; as the bird seldom or ever gets better of it, was it mine, and an indifferent bird, I should think it best to put it out of its misery, not torture it with useless experiments.

THE STAGGERS.

498. This complaint is a constant turning round or staggering, when the bird attempts to walk or fly. As I am in the same predicament with respect to the cure of this complaint as the other, I should be necessitated to adopt the same remedy.

499. Both the above complaints are very rare, and have never happened in my loft, although I have seen them, so I have never been driven to the necessity of considering what would be proper to administer on these occasions. What information I have gathered upon the subject, I am inclined to think these complaints are rarely or ever cured. I think it probable, making a small puncture in the roof of the mouth, to let out a little blood, might be attended with beneficial effects, as both seems to me to arise from a giddiness in the head. Was a valuable bird of mine to be in either of these situations, I should certainly be induced to try the experiment. It would be hardly worth making upon an ordinary bird, unless for satisfaction sake, for the purpose of knowing how to treat a better bird, was it in that situation.

SCOURING OR PURGING.

500. Pigeons are sometimes subject to scouring or purging, particulary young ones, which is generally accompanied with a fœtid smell ; when this is perceived, put down the throat a lump of chalk, the size of a bean, three or four times a day, which will effectually stop it ; the bird will soon be well as before. Pump water, being more astringent, should be given them ; the clotted feathers should be plucked from about the anus, to prevent their being cold and wet, which the constant purging will occasion. Their nests should be kept dry, as from weakness in this complaint they are frequently unable to dung over the side of the nest pan.

THE SMALL POX.

501. The young birds are also subject to a complaint, which, from its similarity, is by Fanciers called the Small Pox ; it generally makes its appearance, just before the birds begin to fledge, and comes out pretty thick in little pustules, filled with matter, about the head neck, and back. I never observed the birds were the least ill with it ; It usually disappears in six or seven days, without having had the smallest effect upon them that I could perceive, the birds thriving and growing all the time, as if nothing was the matter with them.

502. They have some other little complaints too trifling to notice. If a bird is unwell, and I cannot discover the cause of its illness, I generally administer a pill or two of rhubarb, the size of a pea, and repeat it on the alternate day, which purges them, and generally sets them right.

OF ODD OR UNMATCHED BIRDS.

503. The Fancier should avoid keeping too many odd or unmatched birds in his loft, they will be continually getting into the pens of other birds that are sitting steadily, fight them, if not break the eggs, in all probability cause the hen to forsake her nest, by which she will be liable to lay again too quickly, without having sat a proper time to recruit herself; or if she was near hatching, her crop will be filling with soft meat, which the Fancier will have no means of getting rid of, for her, and she will be in danger of being sick and ill, in consequence of it. To remedy this, he had better buy a common bird or two to match to his own that are odd; they will thus be prevented doing him mischief, and be attended with the advantage of being serviceable to him as feeders.

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504. Some Fanciers fit up their lofts with mere shelves, and partitions between them, without any fronts, so that each division is open to the intrusion of every bird in the loft, as well as to the pair it belongs to. This, in my opinion, is an extremely erroneous notion, as the Fancier must be in a much greater degree of uncertainty as to the genuine produce of his birds, of course much less able to give their true pedigree, than if the pens were enclosed; I have more than once been witness to the attempt of a strange bird, to tread a hen, which has squatted to receive the tread of her own mate, no doubt this takes place when the Fancier is not present to prevent it. Add to this, birds are frequently prevented from treading their own hens, by the interference of other birds, who will always fly at them, and prevent them, if they are anywhere about the loft exposed to their view, which must ever be the case in open pens; where the pens have fronts to them, the birds can copulate in quiet, the strain is rendered more certain. The birds sit better, less likely to forsake their eggs, which they will sometimes do, if they are too much exposed. Another advantage is derived; the pens have fronts of good workmanship, takes off that naked look, and give the loft a much more finished and neat appearance.

505. A bird has sometimes a crossed or wry beak, which is a great disfigurement, and of course must be as great an imperfection. This may be remedied while the bird is young, and running about the floor, in the following manner:—That part of the upper beak which projects over the side of the under one must be paired off neatly, and the like done to the lower beak, which in general curves upward on the contrary side, something similar to the tusk of a hog, but they must not be pared so close as to make them bleed; then give the upper beak a gentle turn the contrary way tn which it inclines, serving the under beak in like manner, by repeating this several times a day, keeping the curved parts of the beak constantly pared off, as they shoot again, the beak may be got perfectly straight. This remedy will not answer for an old bird, as the horn of the beak is not sufficiently pliable, is become hard and brittle, and in the attempt to bend would snap off.

506. If the Fancier should have any young birds on the floor that are deserted, and not fed by the old ones that should feed them, are unable to feed themselves, he must get a few beans down them once or twice a day, to prevent their getting poor. This is done by putting some beans in their mouths, applying the beaks of the birds, at the same time opening them. As soon as the birds feel the beans, they will in general swallow them readily. He must take care not to stop their breath by feeding them too long at a time, their throats being very small just at the swallow, and one bean sticking in that part would choke the bird and kill it; he must also give them some water in the same way; occasionally put their beaks into the fountain, and they will soon learn to go to it themselves; this is necessary only with such birds as above described, that are backward from having been left too soon. Birds that are obliged to be thus treated are very apt to get under the feet of the Fancier, as they run to him directly he goes into the loft; he should, therefore, put such birds into the area, that he may not tread upon them, particularly if he has any person in the loft with him.

507. There was a Society of Gentlemen of the greatest respectability till within the last three or four years. It grew too aristocratic—it did not obtain fresh members for

a cross—more properly speaking, it did not infuse young and fresh blood into the Society; therefore it gradually sunk and became defunct. One thing that accelerated its death was some of its members insisting upon better yellow or Almond-colour for the ground or foundation of the bird, and from which it derived its name—the "Almond Tumbler;" this led to a schism, and the society unfortunately departed, after bringing the Almond Tumbler to such a state of perfection, although I have at their shows seen birds that it would be difficult to draw the line whether the ground of some of the birds were red or yellow. (Read paragraphs 436 and 437). This excellent society departed after an existence of over one hundred years, to the immense grief of those gentlemen of the fancy who had the honour of seeing their birds on a grand show day—"It was a great and rare treat." This society was formed for the encouragement of the breed of the Almond Tumbler, under the title of THE COLUMBARIAN SOCIETY, who met almost monthly throughout the year, to dine and spend a cheerful day together, chiefly in conversation upon the Fancy, and to produce such young birds as they may have had bred since their last meeting, for the inspection and entertainment of the society. These gentlemen had a subscription among themselves, for the purpose of giving premiums to such persons has had bred (that season in which the subscription is made) the best birds, according to the standard laid down by the society. The prizes are generally four in number, and divided into two classes, viz., two cocks and two hens; and the subscription is usually ample enough to allow the first cock and hen ten guineas each; the second five or six each. Sometimes there are six prizes, which are divided in the same ratio, making the prize for the first bird in each class, considerably larger than the others. These prizes are adjudged and determined by a committee of three gentlemen, chosen from among themselves, prior to the shew-day, who have not any birds of their own, qualified to act as candidates for the prizes. On the shew-day the committee assemble; the birds which are candidates for the prizes are then put into the pens in an adjoining room, the cocks by themselves in one pen, and the hens by themselves in another, whither the committee adjourn alone, to decide upon the birds qualified to take the respective prizes, according to the standard acknowledged by the members, which the committee have before them, to remind and guide them in their decision. When they have made up their minds, the birds are respectively marked, so as to ascertain which is first, second, &c. And the members at large are then admitted into the room to claim their own birds, and receive a prize for such of them, as from the before-mentioned marks shall be entitled to one. There was sometimes also a private subscription, or sweepstakes, amongst some of the members, for the best cock or hen bird that has not taken a prize, which has frequently amounted to ten guineas; so that it is no uncommon thing to divide between forty and fifty guineas for prizes on the shew-day.

507.* I think it will not be out of place here, if I give you what I believe to be the standard of the original Columbarian Society, taken from an old work.

STANDARD FOR THE ALMOND TUMBLER.

The properties to be considered in the following order:—

HEAD—Lofty and round.

EYE—A bright pearl colour round the pupil.

BEAK—Fine, straight, and pointed, the length not to exceed $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch from the point to the inner circle of the eye.

FEATHER—The ground uniformly yellow through hackle shoulder and rump, the whole to be equally spangled with black; the first nine flight feathers in the wings, (counting from their extremities) to be distinctly broken with black, white, and yellow; the tail to consist of twelve feathers, and no more, all of which to be broken the same as the flight, in both cases the most yellow to have the preference.

SHAPE—A fine neck and prominent chest, short feathers, small round body, and the bird to stand low.

IMPERFECTIONS inadmissable at a show—A darker colour than the shoulder, running across the short flight without any break of black in it, also the beak being crossed or turned up.

508. This society was for some years past, held at Gray's Inn Coffee-house, Holborn,

London, on the first Tuesday in every month in the year, with the exception of one or two, when the members were likely to be out of town.

509. I am aware, in some parts of the country, Fanciers live at too great a distance from each other to meet once a month; but surely they could meet once a quarter, and by forming themselves into a society, showing their birds, &c., which would greatly improve their knowledge of the Almond Tumbler, and greatly facilitate the study of this bird. I would suggest a society might be formed open to all the world, to show the best Almond Tumbler for the five properties, on one day in the year; the meeting to take place in the most central part of the country—say Birmingham, supposing it to be the most central for the London, Manchester, Liverpool, Scotch and Irish Fanciers; if not approved of—say London, or any other place; taking care there are facilities to get to and from; it might not be convenient for some gentlemen to stop, dine, and spend a cheerful day together in conversation upon the Fancy.

510. It is not my intention to enter into particulars how a society of this sort is to be carried out, it may be done by subscription, or by Fanciers having to pay a certain sum on entering each bird competing for the prize, or both combined. I have no doubt many gentlemen who are not Fanciers, but great admirers of the Almond Tumbler, would subscribe to carry out the object, and have the gratification of seeing some of the best birds under the sun.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

511. I sincerely hope I should be the last Fancier to instil into the mind of the amateur (provided I had the ability, or more properly speaking, dishonesty), how to make up a bird; I could not conscientiously pass over without informing you of your privileges. You have a right to cut or shorten the beak to the end of the quick, to scrape the sides of the beak with a sharp instrument or broken glass, to show it off to the greatest advantage; at the same time, you have no right to cut or scrape through the quick; if by accident you should do so, the bird would not die, yet the experienced Fancier will discover it. The cause of my mentioning this circumstance is, the young Fancier should not be disheartened, lamenting he cannot breed such short face birds as he sees; from his want of knowledge, he may look at the head and beak of birds that have been cut to the end of the quick, and look at his own birds whose beak have been allowed to grow or run out, he could have wished his own birds were as short faced. It is possible it might be shorter, he took his distance for the one to the quick,—the other to the end of the horn. I hope I have said enough to open the eyes of the amateur, without giving offence to the more experienced or practical Fancier,

512. The young Fancier has a right to pluck or withdraw any objectionable feather, provided he keeps the bird in his own aviary or loft, he has no right to show it for feather; if he does, it may be discovered, if he has done so by way of selling the bird, it amounts to a fraud; this is what is called in the Fancy weeding, or gardening.

513. In your time, you may hear things that appear strange, and greatly surprise you, listen to remarks, I caution you not to repeat them unless you have been an eye witness. It is possible you may hear of the making up of birds; I believe the only properties it is possible to alter is Feather, Head, and Beak. Feather we will take first, by plucking or withdrawing any objectionable feather, called weeding or gardening; secondly, the head, as I have heard stated, by employing caps, placed on the heads of young birds in the nest to grow to.—It is possible it might have been tried, I never saw it done, I discard it as unworthy of belief.--last, the beak; notwithstanding the above remarks as regards feather and head, there are some few Fanciers of whom it is asserted make the beak, (which is so much admired) by breaking the upper mandible when the bird is a few days old; it may be detected from the injury it has received, similar to our own flesh, when we have received a severe pinch; it may also be detected in the bird when grown up, by the position of the beak, it has an unnatural appearance, the beak pointing upwards. Having made these remarks (the reason I shall inform you by and bye), I again caution you not to make a charge by hearing, or even reading this treatise; keep a still tongue, put the question to yourself, how is it possible you might discover a bird made up as regards the head and beak. I informed you the beak has an unnatu-

ral appearance of being thrust upwards, which is the opposite of its natural tendency, likewise appearing as though thrust further back into the head. I will give you a better rule or criterion to judge by; experience teaches me these tricks cannot be played upon the head and beak of the Almond Tumbler without greatly distorting the eye, making it appear very unnatural, offending the eye of the Fancier; it appears as though it was a weak watery eye, always winking and blinking: at the same time should you, on looking at a bird, believe tricks have been played upon it, but has a full, bold, beautiful eye, I think you would be drawing a wrong conclusion; if the bird was for sale, you are not bound to buy it, being in doubt.

514. There are Fanciers who scarce look at their young birds in the nest, but have got into the habit of stroking the beak upwards; if they do nothing more I do not find fault; I know it is the contrary of what I do, being determined to see what the beaks will come to in a natural way; owing to this and having very fine beak birds, I should not think there was a Fancier who bred more cross or wry beaks than myself. It is not the fault of the Almond Tumbler, but of the Fancier, in not keeping the beak straight; they are not hatched crooked or wry, but are wrenched by the feeding of the old ones; those beaks we see crooked, if shortened and pared to the end of the quick, would look different. If I examined a crooked beak bird, and saw by trimming its beak to the quick it did not exceed five-eighths of an inch, or a little over, I would as soon breed from, or sooner, than from a straight beak bird I knew nothing about, knowing how easy it is to keep the beak straight while the bird is young and the horn is sufficiently pliable; will not answer for an old bird, as the horn is hard and brittle, in the attempt to bend it would snap off. I do not know that it is possible to make up the head of an Almond Tumbler, this much I do know, it would be utterly impossible to produce first-rate birds from such. The cause of my making these remarks is, you may suppose that Fanciers of the present day had not heard of these reports, this is the reason of its appearing in this treatise; I do not like writing on such a dishonest subject; I informed you before if I possessed both ability and dishonesty combined, I would not instruct you how to make up a bird; the only way I know of making a good bird is to breed it from two first-rate birds.

515 I believe there are Fanciers at this time, whose judgment of the Almond Tumbler has never been surpassed—are not likely to be eclipsed, yet is possible that the head and beak Fanciers of the present day may persevere in breeding such short-faced birds, as to enable the young and rising Fanciers to breed birds whose distance shall not exceed the half-inch from the iris round the pupil of the eye to the end of the quick on the beak. I have some in my possession as short-faced as I have ever seen; I never witnessed more than three birds whose "Head and Beak," as it is called, but did exceed the half-inch in the course of my life. Still, I believe in a few years the head and beak will be shortened, and that half-inch distance birds will not be so rare, or considered so great a curiosity as they are at the present time; at the same time, I believe seven-sixteenths of an inch never was seen, or ever will be seen, if you was to live a thousand years. There is an amazing difference in a short-faced Tumbler between an half-inch, and a seven-sixteenth of an inch in an Almond Tumbler; you may reason soundly that an inch is not much in the length of a man's nose (on the contrary I have seen a face without any nose), I agree with you, but the sixteenth part of an inch in a short-faced bird, after taking the standard at half an inch, is that which never was nor ever will be seen; birds may be hatched without beaks, this I consider foreign to the question.

516. When you are going your round at six o'clock in the evening to see if eggs are laid, observe at the same time the eggs you expect to be hatched on that day; if they are not sprung or chipped, place the egg to your ear, if you hear a brisk crackling noise within, put the eggs into your mouth, one after the other, and well saturate them with your spittle, repeat this, it is to be hoped as the shell dries and becomes brittle it will burst and let out *a little wonder!* I particularly cautioned you to know the day the eggs were to hatch, and that without doubt. If I was in your aviary or loft with you in the evening, you showed me a pair of eggs you believed were to hatch that day or the following, if these eggs had not sprung or chipped, on putting the eggs to my ear did not hear so brisk a noise in the shell, I should conclude it was to-morrow. It is said to-morrow never comes, it came a day too late for you when you find the two birds dead in their shells. I am convinced better head and beak birds have perished in their

shell than ever were hatched, the reason is the amazingly short-faced bird cannot reach the shell with its beak, and perishes in the shell, if the judgment of the Fancier, does not extricate it; on the contrary, the bird that only comes out to be killed by a good Fancier, (I allude to the rough long-faced bird), sticks its beak through the shell, and extricates itself.

517. I neglected entering into my register the days eggs ought to be hatched, which gave me trouble and loss. I will give you two instances, looking at eggs, I knew by experience were near hatching, I discovered an egg with a hole in it, the bird alive, strong, and hardy, I considered it was to all appearance time it was out of the shell, I gentry dented the shell of the egg all round with my finger nail, it bled profusely, I placed it back in the nest pan with the other egg, addled. At four o'clock next morning, I looked to see if the young bird had extricated itself, the blood had caused the broken shell to adhere closely, my opinion is, the parent birds had set heavily, as though the bird and shell were jammed together, the bird apparently dead. I took it to the light, the air caused the bird to open its mouth, I then extricated it from the shell, the bird only lived a few hours. In this case I considered I was a little too fast. In the evening looking at the eggs near hatching, placing some to my ear, I found one egg the young one within making a sharp crackling noise, this egg not being sprung or chipped, I could not perceive where the beak was, recollecting I condemned myself a few hours before for being too fast, placed the egg back, at four o'clock next morning, again placing the egg to my ear, all was quiet and remained so ever since. I then blamed myself for being too slow. I would caution you against being too fast or too slow, my advice to you is to "*Remember the Seventeenth*" day from laying the last egg. I lost these two birds from a little neglect, not having entered in the book the day on which the eggs should have hatched, owing to my time being so much occupied. Had I known for certain, in the first case, it was only the "sixteenth" day from laying the last egg, I might have been more cautious how I dented the shell, in the second case, if I had known it was the "eighteenth" day from the last egg, I would not have hesitated in breaking off a small portion of the shell, where, to the best of my judgment, the beak lies, to let in a little air.

518. The idea struck me of communicating to you how many hours a bird will live in the shell without being sprung, chipped, or a small hole made in the shell to let in air. I am convinced it is not long, otherwise the bird will be suffocated in the shell; a bird may live comparatively speaking a considerable time in the shell, where the beak has protruded through the shell and obtains air.

519. The difficulty you will encounter is when birds have set their full time, viz. the seventeenth day from the last egg, when you place it to your ear a sharp noise is heard in the shell, by the bird endeavouring to extricate itself, yet the egg is not sprung, or the least rise to shew where the beak lies; under these circumstance I would advise you to put it back for an hour, in the hope it will become visible where the beak lies, when you examine the egg again, if you can perceive the rise where the beak lies, pick off a little of the shell on that part to let the young one have air. On the contrary, should it so happen you cannot by any possibility discover where the beak is, placing the egg to your ear, believe it does not make so brisk or sharp a noise as before, it is a certain sign the bird is becoming more weak, its short beak cannot by any possibility reach to puncture the shell, and that it will he dead in a short time, if it does not immediately receive air; under these circumstances the young Fancier must make a small hole, to to the best of his judgment, where he supposes the beak lies.

520. Of two evils—"A little too Fast, or a little too Slow," I should advise you to choose the little too Fast; remember, I said "little," the better to rivet it on your mind, would say "very little." The greater part of this trouble may be avoided by a little care on the part of the Fancier, by recollecting the "seventeenth day," letting the birds have warm nests, greatly assists in hatching the eggs; with regard to the particularly short-faced birds, whose beaks cannot by any possibility reach the shell, it is otherwise, no fault of the Fancier. He must pay great attention, by observing the eggs that are hatching, endeavour to ascertain where the beak lies, when he is necessitated to puncture a hole in the shell of an egg where the beak is not visible, he should use the greatest caution. I particularly call your attention to paragraph 602.

521. It will not answer to put an egg in your mouth that is much chipped, or a little smashed, owing to the old birds having set too heavy on the eggs, the blood within will cause the shell to adhere so tight to the bird ; in this case the young Fancier must exercise his judgment, how he can judiciously with care (when the smashed shell is dry) pick it off. Again when the bird has sprung the shell, which is always where the beak lies, and the bird appears fixed tight in the shell it cannot move about, take a drop of sweet oil, after picking off the shell, if not already off, passing it between the head and the shell, by which means it will be greatly assisted in extricating itself, and many a valuable bird saved. The cause of my writing much on this subject is, if you are not careful you will loose the birds most desired to be saved, experience teaches me, if the bird to be hatched on the last day (that is the seventeenth from laying the last egg) is not out of the shell by the eighteenth day, it must be under particular circumstances I would leave it there so long ; I should not expect to see it out alive, this requires judgment. To the best of my recollection, I never heard the bird alive in the shell, twenty-four hours, or so long ; if the beak does not puncture the shell—or, let in air, the bird is suffocated in the shell.

522. There are Fanciers who take the eggs from the Almond two or three days before hatching, and place them under a pair of feeders—such as baldheads or beards which set closer, hatching sharper than the Almonds. It is done by placing the eggs of the Almonds under the baldheads or beards, and *vice. versa ;* when the Almonds eggs are hatched, then exchange again. At the same time, it does not follow their soft meat, is up ; although they have set their time—seventeen days. It sometimes happens their soft food does not come on for two or three days after ; you must get them fed from somewhere, otherwise they will perish. It would be uncharitable to expect the young Fancier will know all at once ; experience keeps a dear school, the most experienced Fancier that ever lived, had to learn in this school. Some of the Almonds do not set close, particularly the old and valuable ones (why I say old and valuable ones, had they been otherwise they would have been discarded) ; they do not appear to have sufficient heat in their bodies to hatch their eggs. When this is discovered, you had better set their eggs at the commencement under feeders, that have laid at the same time, by exchanging their eggs ; must not be done in a forgetful manner. You may always know when you begin to understand whether their soft food is on or not, by trying the craw or crop of the birds, if on, it appears soft and pappy ; on the contrary, hard, but will come on in a few days.

523. When I get a little nonpareil out of the shell, I am lost in wonder and astonishment how I shall get it fed. I have heard it stated there are Fanciers who keep doves to feed their short-faced birds, I am assured they feed well, and longer than Pigeons. As I never tried I do not know ; if they will, many a valuable short-faced bird would be saved. I have before now been placed in such difficulty with a particularly short-faced bird, after trying half a dozen pair of birds that had hatched at the same time, yet could get none to feed it. It may be worth trying doves, as they have eight broods a year. The shorter faced your feeders the better, I think they ought not to exceed six-eighths ; if you feed with strong long-faced, take for example a dragon, one inch and a quarter, you will observe when the young little short-faced birds leave their pans, if hungry, chase the old ones in their pen, aviary, or loft, in their haste to obtain food will thrust its head into the old bird's mouth, or comparatively speaking, down its throat, to meet the food, by which means the young bird's head is flattened, (being soft at the time), the contrary of what could be desired, a lofty head ; it follows, having long-faced feeders, you flatten the head and wrench the beak ; on the contrary, having short-faced feeders the young ones cannot thrust their heads into their mouths, neither will the beaks be so wrenched. If the owl Pigeon was not so shy, I should prefer it for a feeder. But short-faced hardy blue tumblers, beards, or baldheads are very good.

524. There are Fanciers who would not shift oftener than once, neither would I, provided I thought it safe to trust to that shift to finish the birds ; as I do not, I shall make my remarks :—I approve of shifting the young birds at six days ; giving the old ones an older bird to draw off their soft food, which they do in about ten days. The danger of their being off the young ones a considerable time, suffering them to die of cold, with their crops full, while the ones are calling to nest. In your experience you will find as many or more die of cold crammed full, than those that are not fed, the reason is this, they require warmth by being set on, as much or more than food. I think

crammed as they are, the food getting chilled or cold, is the cause that accelerates their death. I give the young birds another shift when they are twelve or thirteen days old, under a pair of feeders that have fed three or four days, for the sake of warmth ; and now my last shift, however well apparently, the pair of birds feed that have the shift of the birds twelve days old, will this pair of birds finish them, by feeding four weeks till they can feed themselves—it may, or it may not be so. You cannot help your thoughts on this or any other subject ; I do not think it safe, I endeavour for the last shift, to get them at twenty-one days old under a pair of good tempered birds, there is a vast difference in their tempers after they have fed a week ; calculating they will feed them well for three weeks, which will finish them, by this time they will feed themselves.

526. Experience teaches: I can take extreme cases. I will give you two that happened. I had a black mottled picked up the tares, and fed well at three weeks; at five weeks it left off feeding itself, as it had lost all idea of being fed it died. The other happened in my loft where I flew my feeders, a pair of short-faced would not learn to feed themselves, although would take a fly round with the feeders, they were fed by one or other in the loft, until they would feed them no longer, they both were starved to death at two months old. These are not the rules, the exceptions; sometimes it happens you experience difficulty in shifting a bird so old as three weeks. I am aware it is easier for the last shift, to shift at seventeen or eighteen days, the feeders taking to them more kindly. When you shift the birds that have grown pretty old and large comparatively, do not let the old birds come and take a sight of them, put the hen upon the young. It is better to shift these large birds as near dark as possible; be sure to put the hen on, in the morning she will not discover the exchange, or else be reconciled to it. Should the colours of birds shifted vary much, experience teaches me it is not so much in the size of the bird as the colour—was it not for the fighting attitude the young bird puts itself into about three weeks old—therefore you will see the propriety in shifting these large birds at dark. It would not do to exchange under your feeders a young white bird, where before there had been a black one; and the reverse by shifting a black one, where before they had a white one; the result, very likely a good tempered pair of feeders after looking at and going from it a good many times, might at last take to it: while the ill tempered pair would kill it at once. You will see the impropriety of shifting colours differing so widely; endeavour to shift by giving the colour as near as possible.

527. It is important in shifting, your nest pans should be the same size and height; if your feeders had a nest two inches high, in your shifting you gave them a pan four inches high, the one comparatively they could walk into, while they would have to jump up to the other, cause them to be suspicious all was not right, forsake the pan after killing the birds, owing to a little neglect on your part. You will find it a good plan to put the shifted birds into their pans, till the feeders are reconciled to the birds shifted, then you can with safety exchange the pans if necessary, owing to being dirty.

528. I observed before, young ones vary much as regards feeding themselves; I will inform you my method of treating young birds to learn to feed themselves. I have a pen two feet square, nine inches high, made of strong wire, the wires not more than one inch and a quarter apart, the birds will get out if further, wires up and down, no bottom, the floor will form the bottom besides being easier to clean. Let it be wired over the top, it will give more light; I have mine made in two halves, owing to my aviary being parted; have an opening in the partition large enough to let the young pigeons through, by placing one piece on each side of the partition it again becomes a square, then form within and without the wire work, a frame work of wood, one inch and a half, making three inches together. There is not any need of its being a fixture whether you have them in squares or halves, I can place the half against the wall or any where else ; you will find the advantage in having them made in halves. Let this frame work be one inch and a half high from the flooring where the wire work rests, it will form a kind of trough—fill it up with the best old tares—at the same time so constructed that the water from your carboys, fountains, or other proper vessels, shall come within the wire-work; now make all the old birds come to feed and drink where you fix this pen. I informed you there is not any fixed rule or time when the young birds feed themselves, much will depend on the strength and forwardness of the birds, otherwise, writing from observation, the hardy and forward ones at a month old are more inclined

to pick up than at a more advanced age; it is policy to look round your aviary or loft for these birds and place them inside the pen constructed for them. You will now observe what I have been driving at, that is, the old birds coming to feed and water, taking care they cannot get elsewhere (only water on the days you allow them to wash), teaches the young birds to feed and drink.

529. It does not follow because you have placed them under this pen for the old ones to teach, they will feed; you must have your eye and judgment upon them, and feel their craw or crops if it is filled with food. To assist you, I will suppose a case. You have brought down six young Almonds, their ages differing a little, and placing them in this pen in the morning, between five and six o'clock in the evening examine them by feeling their crops, which is easily felt by your hand; should only one have fed full, leave it under the pen, and put the other five back to their places from where you took them, the old ones will fill them full for the night; repeat this plan, by putting them under the pen in the morning; if there is not sufficient food in them in the evening, place them back where you took them, continue this plan until they feed themselves, it will prove my assertion, while some birds will feed at a month, others are not safe to be trusted at six weeks; be sure before you draft them off to another place they feed themselves, it may turn out they are fed from old birds about the place (that have lost their young by death or being shifted) through the wires of the pen, as some will feed any young ones. I have tried experiments by way of enticing them to eat, giving them hemp, rape, wheat, &c. I think these are bad, and often prevent their feeding on tares, which is desired while they are young; I bred a very rich bright yellow whole feather, beautiful in head and beak, I was desirous of rearing it, I decoyed it to feed by giving it hemp, rape, wheat and tares: it took to wheat, would eat nothing else; it was now three months old, I was determined to break it off wheat, that it should feed upon tares—it beat me, by dying; it would not take to tares; a little of these might not do harm. The best plan I ever found was to sift the tares as small as possible, put some in a small pipkin, pour boiling water over them, put them into the oven by the side of the fire over night, in the morning when the young birds were under the pen, I made them a little heap of these tares (taking care the old pigeons could not reach them) about the same warmth as though they had come from the feeders, the young birds would eat them freely while they continued warm. I think you will find your interest in trying this. You will act unwisely if you put the young birds into the places in the evening from where you took them in the morning, provided they are full; if they feed keep them to it for a week; if you can put the young into an aviary, loft, or parted place, to prevent the old birds from worrying them, they will improve rapidly. The sooner your young birds feed themselves the better, they are likely to be smaller, the beak less wrenched, the head not less round.

530. You are not to expect the head of a bird at three months old, to appear as beautifully formed as a bird's head that is three years old; they fill out, or, more properly speaking, as it is termed by gentlemen of the Fancy, "Make up," therefore it will be clear you require time and experience to know these things, Again, the Almond Tumbler does not arrive at its highest pitch of plumage till it has moulted two or three times; some will still increase in beauty, others will decline till they become mottled, splashed, or whole-feathered.

531. There are rich Fanciers who stand at nothing as regards expense; where they breed on the floor, cut away the flooring to let in the nest pan flush or nearly so, similar to the basin in wash-hand stands. It can be done in any of the pens above, by letting the bottom of the pan come through the pen below; or you can have false bottoms to your pens. The cause of their adopting this plan is, some of the young birds are restless by some means, get out of their pans, after rambling about in their pens, fall again into their nest pans; on the contrary, if this plan is not adopted, the birds could not regain possession of their pan, owing to being young, or badly fledged; if the night is cold, you would probably find them dead in the morning. Many valuable birds are lost otherwise would have been saved, had the former plan been adopted. I do not approve of pitching boards projecting before the pens, would rather them flush with the pens; for merry cocks would be pitching on these boards, consequently, being higher, would, if they did no further mischief, tantalize or worry the birds to whom the pen belonged.

532. I think there is no occasion for a pen two feet square, it is larger than there is occasion for, and appears unsightly, I will give you an idea of what I think would look better: a pen two feet long, eighteen inches deep, sixteen inches high in the clear, shifting fronts, the bottom of the door five inches from the bottom of the pen, to prevent the young ones getting out; let the door-way be open to the top, which will be eleven inches high; let it be ten inches wide, placed in the centre of the pen, rabbetted and fastened with two buttons on the outside, the bars not exceeding one inch and a half, mortised in to give a neater appearance. Although I have shown the advantages derived by sinking the nest pans, I would still have a shelf half way between the top and the bottom of the pen, big enough and nothing to spare, with a hole in it to receive the pan, the birds to fly up on the edge of the pan, direct over the pan that is sunk in the bottom of the pen, it might be that the old ones were sitting in the above pans, while finishing off young ones below; the rail of the door framing forms the pitching board which is flush with the pen; this is one cause why I approve of large entrances to the pens; there is still a greater, preventing them striking the joints of their wings, greatly injuring them, causing wens and crippling them for life. I should advise the young Fancier to look round and see if there was anything in the aviary or loft, provided the bird flew or came in contact with; above all things have no sharp edges, let every thing be rounded, even the door ways to your pens, or perches in your aviary or loft, if you have any. My advice is to have as few as possible, unless, ironically speaking, you are blessed with a wilderness sort of place for your Almonds, even then there is danger by a friend but stranger to your Almonds, who might frighten and cause them to injure themselves against these uncalled for and dangerous places. Although I said stranger to your Almonds, it is possible might know more about the Almond than you that are reading, or I that am writing this treatise, still he is strange to your birds

533. I will suppose my birds would be dirty if I gave them a chance, I will set my wits to work and defy them, by removing every thing out of their way which would in the slightest degree soil their plumage, I have my avairy and loft scraped up twice a day, would have it scraped up three times or oftener if occasion required; on the flooring in my aviaries and lofts, I have eleven-inch deals, sawed into three equal widths, which is nearly three inches and three quarters each, fixing them edgeways on the floors, about twelve inches apart, now these boards being three inches and three quarters high from the ground floor, as the pigeon is fond of resting upon something, prevents their tail and flight coming in contact with dirt on the floor, provided we would allow any to be there.

534. Some Fanciers have small deal boxes, with a logger hole cut for the birds to go in and out; it opens at top, being on hinges, to put in nest pans or look at the young birds. I formerly used pots in my loft amongst my feeders where I shifted the young Almonds; these pots similar in shape to a bee hive; the dimensions were twelve inches high, ten in clear at bottom, with flat knob at top to lift it, without any bottom, the flooring forming the bottom, a logger hole five inches wide, reaching seven high from the bottom, I could place them anywhere on the flooring of the loft and put the nest pan under. I used them in pens with Almonds, which kept them warm, it is too troublesome to lift off to look at a number of young birds. It did not answer among the feeders, the young birds getting out and were killed by the birds in the loft.

535. So much depends on the circumstances and spirit of the Fancier, the difference so great between the prince and the peasant (although a spirited Fancier), if it was their intention to prepare a place for the Almond Tumbler, the prince might construct a place that would astonish those who are not Fanciers, more than the Almond Tumblers; while the peasant would be compelled, comparatively speaking, to breed in a rabbit hutch. The Fancier best knowing how he is circumstanced for room, will be more competent to mature his plans; having tiers of pens is decidedly the best, as they can be made portable and shifted from one place to another.

536. When a cock has become exceedingly troublesome, will take pens right and left of his own, turn out the birds that belong to the pens, as a ferret would rats, I have broke them off it by taking away the birds to whom the pen belonged; have half drowned the troublesome cock, gave it a good beating, filled its mouth with bitter aloes, rubbed his tares with bitter aloes, made his water as disagreeable as possible, and

fastened him in the pen that did not belong to him for two or three days; I have cured most. I had one cock that forgot about the bitter aloes in a week. I thought I was at last beat by a pigeon, I did not take in good part; it drove me to thinking, a thought struck me I would put him the other side of the partition of the avairy, fortunately there were two stinging game cocks for Almonds, right and left of the pen I put him in, it was top row of pens, same as he had on the other side ; fastened him in a few days, when I let him out, watched him; he was scarce a minute before he was in the pen on his left, there was such a scuffle, he came out as though he had caught a tartar, and went into his own pen to his hen; he had not been long in his pen, before he went into the pen on his right; he soon came out, as though he had been treading on hot cinders; he was placed on an equality, and learned good manners; after this he became as good as "Guld," and the least troublesome cock I had in my whole aviary. A Fancier must not allow a pigeon to beat him; I am aware it is different where a Fancier flies his pigeons; on letting out a fresh Tumbler, it shows its summerset, and wishes him good morning, still the Fancier has the consolation to watch it out of sight, besides knowing which road it took, whether north, east, south or west. See JOHN BOYS, Esq., par. 590.

537. I have found in my experience, after taking pains in making good nests in the pans, birds robbing and destroying each others nests, or making their nest otherwise than I could have desired, a week after they had scarce a bit of straw left in their pans; having many birds this annoyed me, caused me to think how I could alter it. My pans are seven inches in diameter at the top, and four inches in depth (both in the clear), sloped inwards, the bottom of the outside five inches, that they may stand firm if placed on a shelf or the flooring; they are very stout, if a bird flew upon the edge of the pan it would not pull over. I get rush matting (which may be obtained at the upholsterers, &c.), and placing the top of the pan upon it, cut it round, then fresh yellow deal sawdust that has the turpentine in it, which insects will not come near, take a pint of this and put it into the pan, work it round by a smaller pan or wooden bowl, (I once heard a *Professional Gentleman* state he made the nest in the pans with his lapstone) carefully placing the rush matting, will cover the sawdust, form a lining within the pan, retaining the shape of the pan.

538. While I was thinking of this plan, made up my mind to paste in the rush matting, fortunately placing it in the inside of the pan, found it spring and adhere closely, I abandoned the paste. It may be objected to by some Fanciers that the rush matting would harbour the vermin, (they have no right in the aviary or loft) I believe the turpentine in the fresh yellow deal sawdust would prevent that; cause great warmth to the eggs or young birds. If you have allowed vermin in your aviary or loft, you must exercise care or the vermin will beat you. It is otherwise with me, I have declared war against and will exterminate them, should the sawdust fail in keeping away insects. Having cut a score or two of these mattings, place them one upon another in a pail, then get the strongest tobacco water, pour it on the matting, let it absorb as much as it will, taking them out, put a few bits of lath or stout wire placed over the pail, placing the matting judiciously so as to drain into the pail that none of the tobacco water is lost (you will find ample room for economy in breeding and rearing the Almond Tumbler), when dry, or nearly so, place over the sawdust and form the inner lining of your nest pan; should the tobacco water drain into the sawdust so much the better. I think this would effectually keep them from the nest pans, it is to them anything but a sweet savour. Should this fail, I will consider what will kill a young pigeon, or one of these insects; if there was no other way left to exterminate the vermin, I would rub a little of the blue ointment on that side of the matting that comes next the sawdust, so as not to affect the young hatched bird, a very little would do, and kill all that touch it, not injuring the young bird for it is on the other side of the matting; if the insects are on the top side of the matting it will most assuredly pass through, where there will be something that will give it a warm reception, and effectually kill it. I do not expect you will be driven to such extremities, I think you will find sawdust and the decoction of tobacco combined, will cause the insects, if any, to leave the birds that are sitting, and get at the botton outside the pans. You will perceive it not only keeps the young birds free from insects, but cleanses the old ones during sitting. It will be as well to put a little hay in the bottoms of their made-up pans; they like to sit on hay; it appears natural as anything I am aware of. I would

not have the hay longer than six inches, for the better laying in the nest pans; after all I think hay is best, my experience proves it.

539. You will find your interest in it if you let them have on the floor a small round basket, the wicker one inch and a half apart, filling it with hay as before observed, six inches long, it teaches them to find their pens, they take delight in carrying it to their nest pans, leave off robbing their neighbours; it is necessary at times to cast your eye round to see the nest pans, for some few of the birds carry so much hay to their nest, that it will surprise you how the eggs do not roll off, and if hatched, the young would be in great danger of falling off the nest. when this is discovered remove a portion, still leaving them a good nest, for fear they would desert it; my pan may be objected to as being too deep, with the sawdust and matting I can make it any depth as occasion requires.

540. I observed in a former part of the work, how restless some of the young ones were, would get out of their pans and die of cold; might not this restlessness arise from the belly ache? Why should not young pigeons have the belly ache as well as other things? I have the advantage in having deep pans, I can take sawdust and matting away, put a little hay at bottom will confine them to their pans; they could not get out of a pan four inches deep; the pan being seven inches diameter at the top, large enough for Almond Tumblers, proves the advantages to be derived from snug pans. When the pans have become dirty, necessary to clean them, lay hold of the rush matting, pull it out, scrape it and lay it in the tobacco water, will kill the vermin should there be any, dry it, it will be ready for use again; it will be advisable to turn the sawdust into the fire: with respect to cleansing the pan, should there be any insects in the porous parts of the pans, inside or outside, attempting to destroy them with clear water would be useless. I formerly used (after my nest pans were washed) to place them in a large tub of tobacco water which I obtained from the tobacco manufacturers, it being stronger than I could make it, this effectually destroys the vermin and nits; some Fanciers wash their pans with soda and water; others put them into the copper amongst the soap suds and soda after a "Great Wash," as it is called, not forgetting to give the fire an extra poke. If you make your nests as I do with sawdust and rush matting, instead of putting a little hay on the top of the matting use wormwood, a small quantity will do, it will cause the insects to leave the nest; be careful in shifting young birds you do not give a pan with the nest made of wormwood where before it was made of hay, from the strong smell the old birds may smell a rat; put a little in all the pans.

541. Whenever you shift young Almonds, be sure and put the number of the pen on the pan, by which you will know the pedigree of the young birds, as soon as pretty well feathered, enter them into a book kept for that purpose: it is useless to attempt to trust to memory if you have a number of birds. You will in your experience find birds some days feed half a dozen young birds, other days not feed at all, and *vice. versa.* with other birds; you must therefore shift the pan with the young birds where they will get fed, otherwise they will die; those birds that did not feed will sit and keep the fed birds warm, and feed well the next day; you will perceive it is quite immaterial where the pan is shifted to, having the number on it; you must put the number on the pan when you give them a clean one; should you be very particular about your nest pans, or use pots to cover your nest pans, have a model made at a turner's, take it to any pottery, they will make it to your pattern; have plenty of nests made in the pans by placing one in another, say twelve high, the weight and pressure forms them nicely —do not spoil a ship for a halfpenny's worth of tar, or else I leave you to guess what will follow. I am at a loss to know why I should have written so much on the subject of insects and cleanliness, for my birds are not allowed to be dirty, unless it be to put you upon your guard against them. The plan I have adopted with regard to making the nests in the pans with matting, sawdust, and wormwood this season, has answered the purpose beyond my utmost expectation.

542. You will observe paragraph 458, treating on marks by which to ascertain the colours of young birds in the nest, if the beak has no mark on it, is quite white, the bird will be an Almond; this is true and false at the same time; the Almond will have a white beak, and the white Agate coming from Almonds will have a white beak, the experienced Fancier will, at a few days old discover whether it is an Almond or white

Agate; so will you my young Fancier. It is all plain to him who understands, I will inform you how to discover it:—look at the eye or eyelid, if a white Agate it will appear ferrety, red, and fiery; while the Almond will be the contrary. The other remarks as to colour of the birds by the beak, my experience teaches is correct, the Fancier who first discovered it must have been a very close observer, and entitled to great credit. If you match extraordinary rich feathered Almonds together, you will breed more or less Agates, of various colours—yellows, reds, &c., some of these birds have beautiful pearl eyes; if you breed a pure white, which is still an agate (owing to its coming from Almonds), which rarely have pearl eyes, otherwise would be considered a curiosity, a proof you had matched your birds too high, as it is called.

543. I feel pleasure in seeing how heartily my birds engage in washing, should think a bird not well that did not wash with great earnestness; if I became possessed of a fresh bird, I should observe whether the bird took delight in washing, if not, should say this is no favourite of mine, unless possessing some undeniable properties, I cannot endure a bird dirty in body with a scrubby flight and tail. Deep earthen pans are extremely dangerous, there being no foothold for the birds to get up the sides, many a good bird is drowned. I will guard you against such a calamity, by informing you of the construction of my tubs for the washing and cleansing of the birds: my tubs are twenty inches in diameter, six inches high, both in the clear, with four steps all round the tubs equal distances, one inch wide (similar to steps to go down into a bath or a staircase); should some of your pigeons stand low, enter the tubs with avidity, if they get out of their depth, they rush to the sides and climb up the steps, otherwise they would be drowned. There is a small brass plug at the bottom of the tub to let off the water gently after washing, you would find the tub and water heavy if you attempted to turn it over, making a mess, besides splashing yourself; take especial care the waste water is drained off cleverly; the tubs have lids to cover over after washing, which forms a kind of pitching place for the birds; let the tubs be thick, or place a beading round the top of the tub about three quarters of an inch wide; if you do not adopt this plan let the top of the tub be rounded (it is dangerous to have any sharp edges where there are Almonds), the birds coming out of the water after washing, they rest upon the top of the tub, which cleanses their flight and tail; if they happen to draw their wings on the floor, (this is called by the gentlemen of the Fancy drop wings); they would not do this if the top of the tub was sharp and hurt their feet. I employed a plasterer to form the steps or stairs inside my tubs who used compo, it set as hard as stone; it is possible a carpenter or cooper would accomplish it.

544. I believe few Fanciers ever tried so many experiments as I have, I will give you one:—I considered if it was possible to put anything into their water to clear their plumage, at the same time to destroy the insect, if any were there, without affecting the health of the birds when they drank it. I consulted my friend the chemist upon the subject, it was more than a dose for him; therefore I had to prescribe, which bothered me; while thinking, a thought came into my head if I put soap into their water, believing it would not hurt them if they drank it, it might give them a gentle purge, (recollecting some Fanciers adopt the plan of taking their shaving box, make a strong lather, then with their shaving brush rubbing their birds all over to destroy the insects) I got half a pound of soft soap, put it into a quart pot, filling it up with boiling water, stirring it up to cause it to dissolve, leaving it in the pot overnight, in the morning mixed it with the water they were to wash in; the birds did not approve I suppose the colour of the water, and did not wash. I cannot help thinking if I had acted more prudently, when I pulled out the plug to let off the water after washing, then filling the tubs again, putting in the quart of soap and water, well mixing it, placing the lid over to settle, keeping the birds an extra day from washing, but what they would have eagerly plunged into the water—however, I have not tried it. The birds should not have water to wash in oftener than three times a week, unless it is the hens that are parted from the cocks, for some of them are rank sooner than the cocks; it would not be judicious to match them up so early in the spring, letting the hens have the water four or five times a week, greatly cools them, and somewhat prevents their calling to nest.

545. Should it happen your taste or fancy lies in having coarse, long-faced, mousey-headed, and fiery-eyed birds, fly them by all means, not only fly them, fly them hard,

the harder you fly them, the more rough and course you make them. If, on the contrary, you want them little wonders, or nonpariels, short-faced, lofty-heads with good stops, pearl eyes, fine beaks, and less wattled, then above all things, "Do not let them fly."

546. As regards loam, spare neither pains or expense to get it as good as possible, soak it in brine, you can get it from your butcher; turn it out to dry, then only let your pigeons have it during the breeding and feeding season, believing it a great help to old ones in assisting them to feed their young, besides I believe in a measure preventing putrescence in the throat of the young birds; the brine in the loam, I think, sharpens the appetite of the old birds, I know causes them to drink more, which I think assists feeding their young; besides the brine or salt cleansing the throat or craw of the young birds. I let my birds have it only during the breeding season.

547. I cannot see the utility of mortar where birds have loam soaked in brine, besides having gravel and grit; on the contrary, I have experienced in my birds the loss of an eye through it. Formerly I used to give my birds crushed mortar, some having weakly eyes, I examined them, there did not appear the slightest sign of a peck from other birds, appeared weakly, as though dust was in them; I washed them with alum and other eye waters, some of them baffled me, the birds lost their sight. I began to suspect there was something wrong, after consideration took away the mortar, the result taught me I had removed the cause.

548. Gravel or grit is absolutely necessary; my birds have it always. It would be an improvement in getting the grit or small stones that are washed up after a storm or dry windy weather, by the paths or gutters, taking half gravel and half grit, mix together; some gravel is so fine, not possessing sufficient little stones, which are essential to assist in grinding and digesting their food. In giving gravel and grit, this must not be done in a careless way, or you may experience what I complained of as regards the eye; where there is a number of birds flying about the aviary or loft, coming in contact with gravel and grit causes the dust to get into their eyes; place the gravel and grit out of their way in flying.

549. There is scarcely any thing I would sooner call your attention to, than not allow a single particle of dust in your aviary or loft. I would not have gravel or grit in my aviary or lofts was it not necessary, it is placed cautiously, after my aviary or lofts are scraped and swept. It will take you some years before you have tried as many experiments as I have—some to my sorrow, would occupy too large a space to give an account of all the results.

550. With regard to their food, there cannot be two opinions, that beans unquestionably is the best food possible to give the Almond Tumbler, (provided you can procure them small enough), I would give them nothing else, even through the breeding season, running the risk of choakiug a few young ones in the nest, provided I could get all the old ones to feed upon beans, as some of the very short-faced breeders will not, you are under the necessity of letting them have tares as well. Let your beans and tares be old, of the best quality money will purchase, it will be cheap in the end. If laying out money is not a consideration to you, if you ever saw a beautiful sample of very small beans (although new) buy them and lay them aside for two years, it will more amply repay than laying down wine, or money in the funds. The food next to small beans, is sound old tares, and prime hard peas; old wheat is nourishing and fattening. It is well to give your birds a change of food, particularly when they are feeding their young, they eat more and feed better; small hard beans invigorates, braces up, and makes your birds hardy. Some Fanciers are partial to rice.

551. I will inform you the manner I feed and water my birds, after trying all kinds of hoppers, or other utensils, I found the most simple way the best: I informed you I parted my aviary. I have pieces of wood five feet long, one inch and a half high, placed not exceeding two inches distance from the partition: should you find one inch and a half is wide enough so much the better, it prevents the birds dirtying the food; there are pieces of wood at each end the width you have it—no bottom, and not a fixture, that you may be better able to free it from dust at times, placing bits of wood you can make as many partitions as you please, and give them various kinds of food in the partitions, such as beans, tares, peas, &c., likewise gravel and grit; there is no top or

board overhanging as there is to a hopper, it is more lightsome, an important thing on dark days, amongst the short days.

552. With respect to the manner I water my Almond Tumblers, I use a kind of earthen carboy with an earthen stand to receive it, (they are both made at the same time at the pottery,) with holes all round for the birds to put their heads in to drink; it is a clever contrivance, when I give them water, turning the carboy upwards, the stand receives it; is easily filled, prevents making a mess on the floor. It appears the makers of these drinking utensils have left off making, as I cannot obtain one. Some Fanciers use a stone bottle, making a hole the height they wish their birds to drink, say one inch and a half from the dish in which you place this bottle. You must make it air tight at top, by placing a bung, sealing wax it over; it is apt to make a mess on the floor by filling. You can get a stand made of hoop iron, with three or five legs to come into the dish from which the birds drink, should the legs not be sufficient to prevent the birds from dirtying the water, which is very important, have a few wires fixed to the stand, make the birds drink through them. Carboys can be obtained of the chemist's, the size according to the number of birds you keep, having a stand judiciously made is a good thing, otherwise a three-legged stool; whatever you use, keep the water clean and sweet. These are the most simple, at the same time the best way I have discovered in feeding and watering my birds, besides partaking of their food and water clean. I have an opening in my partition, (the carboy placed in the centre) that the birds on either side of the aviary may drink out of the same utensil.

553. I have observed of the great difference in the feather of two birds, the one fed on beans, others on tears; the plumage bird often fed on beans would be rich, bright, and shining—the others fed on tares, on the contrary, would appear dull, cold, and without any gloss on the feather; the inference I draw is, that beans are to the plumage of the Almond Tumbler, what nitre is to the horse's coat.

554. It is admitted by Fanciers spring water is best for their drink, soft water best for them to wash in. I was desirous, if possible, to put something in the water to make it more stringent and bracing, without injuring the birds; I consulted my old friend the chemist, if he would inform me how I could carry my plan into effect, I shall never forget how emphatically he answered me, (looking round the premises at the time), by saying there was nothing in his warehouses that would so effectually answer the end, as putting in the water a handful of rusty old screws; I adopted, with the addition of a few lumps of chalk, some green rue put in their water, this may be very well, but if let to remain too long it will become stinking and furr the fountains, or what utensil they drink out of. Especial attention must be paid to keep the water sweet and clean, have the utensil from which your birds drink, scalded and kept thoroughly clean; do not let them have more water than will last them one day, let it be so constructed the birds cannot get in to wash, (which they certainly will, if not prevented, and make it dirty.) There cannot be a doubt but that some of the diseases which unfortunately takes place in the Almond Tumblers of some Fanciers, arise entirely from a want of cleanliness on the part of the owner of these birds, the putrid state of the water produces the canker in the old birds, by the slime adhering to their beaks.

556. I object, for fear of adding to this fatal disease, (however clean your aviary or loft may be swept), of making a constant practice of feeding the Almond Tumbler by hand, as it it is called, of throwing the food on the floor, only letting the birds have as much food as they will pick up at a time. The argument in its favor is, it keeps the bird sharper, it will eat with greater avidity; even if this was true I should object to it, for however clean the floor of the aviary might be, when you begin to feed them by hand, some of the birds would dung at the time of feeding, the beans and tares mixing with the dung might cause or accelerate the canker or other diseases. I am sensible you cannot avoid occasionally feeding them on the floor, for instance, if the mornings are exceedingly cold, or the birds deep in moult, you are desirous all your birds should share alike when you gave them hemp seed to warm and make them comfortable, it would be unwise to give them a hopper full as you could wheat; under these circumstances you would be obliged to throw it on the floor as the birds eat it, taking care if the birds dung while eating, not to throw any near that place. Many Fanciers to prevent their birds calling or going to nest, sooner than they want them, adopt this plan, only feeding them once a day, which keeps them lower, and checks

them in going to nest. I will now return to the subject of their drink. Years back I put rue in their water, I fancied they did not like the rue any more than we like physic, I know they did not drink so much. It may be I made it too bitter and over-did this as everything else, (prior to my attempting to write a treatise on the breeding and management of the Almond Tumbler, in this I caught a tartar.) There is not a shadow of a doubt in my mind, provided I had the ability, strictly adhering to truth, derived from observation that I should overdo this treatise also ; unfortunately for me, I see no fear of that, owing to my want of ability, therefore my young and inexperienced Fancier you must take the will for the deed, by having it under-done.

557. As a preventive is acknowledged to be better than a cure, and having endeavoured to instruct you how to keep your pigeons free from diseases by cleanliness and good management. I should not have called your attention to the subject of their complaints were it not to have mentioned a case that happened in my aviary, I had a celebrated black mottled cock (well known by many gentlemen in the Fancy by the name of "the schoolmaster") it was seized with a violent attack of vertigo, or meagrims ; not knowing what to do, I put it in a basket, took it to one of the most experienced gentlemen in the Fancy, living at Highbury, he said in all his experience he never had seen one so "drunk," as he called it, advised me to put it in the dark. I thought it stood in need of something more than putting in the dark, so taking it to my friend, the chemist, and showing him the bird, we consulted what to do, came to the determination if the bird did drink, it shonld drink that which the chemist prepared for it, as it should have nothing else. The bird did not like the preparation, but thirst beat it, not being able to get anything else, was compelled to drink when it became thirsty, and that freely, it continued in this state about a fortnight, without appearing to get better: it pained me to see it in this condition ; after attending a show, and being assured there was not any cure for it, if there was, the chances were so great against its breeding, under these circumstances I made up my mind to kill it. While dressing myself in the morning I heard my man coming down stairs, I ordered him to kill the bird ; before he got to the kitchen, where the bird was kept by the fire, I called out to him not to kill it till I had seen it, we both looked at it (he was a good fancier) and thought it better, we shook the basket the bird kept its feet, from this time the bird gradually improved and became as well as ever.

558. There was something remarkable about the hen I matched to this cock. A Fancier, whom I knew, sure he wished me well as a young Fancier, called upon me one evening, stated he had a black mottle hen, so good he could not afford to buy a cock that was a match, should like me to have the hen, he was sure it would do me good ; I purchased it. Being very green in the Fancy, took it to a Grand Show, put it in the pen to hear its merits or demerits, knew as much about the properties of the bird as the bird knew about me, being so "Raw" in the Fancy at that time ; the first remark made was by one of the most spirited, I believe not second best, with regard to judgment, to any Fancier living ; his remark was, as soon as I placed the bird in the pen, "I will give fifty shillings for that black mottle hen." I did not expect to hear that, therefore reasoned silently, if the bird was worth to him fifty shillings with his great experience, what must it be worth to me ? Being desirous of making progress in the fancy, I therefore declined parting with the bird, although a still higher price was offered. Looking back to my early days in the Fancy I am sure I oftener got a good bird by accident than by judgment : the inexperienced Fancier, when he becomes experienced, can recollect how he has been treated by Fanciers, who ought to have encouraged a young Fancier than otherwise. Having occasion to have some alterations in my aviary and lofts, amongst the workmen was a carpenter who was a flying Fancier, shewing him my birds when we came to the black mottle hen, he said, "You bought that of Mr.——." I asked him, how he knew that ? He sold it to him for a half a crown, as it did not fly well with his bald-heads, that a charwoman, knowing he kept pigeons, brought it to him if he would buy it, he gave her one shilling for it. She said she picked it up, while it was eating oats from horse-dung in the Holloway Road, one bitter snowy winter's morning ; the poor bird was nearly starved, might have perished, had not this good woman saved it. There is not the shadow of doubt this beautiful black mottled hen made its escape from some good fancier's aviary or loft in Holloway or the neighbourhood ; the bird could not fly well owing to having been confined.

559. From the cock that would have been dead in two minutes after I had ordered it to be killed (had I not called out) I cured of the Vertigo, the hen nearly lost in every sense of the word, I obtained my strain of black mottled tumblers, I believe not surpassed by any Fancier living. My young Fancier, I have two objects in view, in informing you of this, the first is not quickly to despair of curing a bird ; the second is, it is possible you may obtain a first-rate stud of birds, even through accident, if you will only persevere and become A. 1. in the Fancy, (see paragraph 88.)

560. With regard to canker, it arises from dirty feeding and putrid drinking, of which the unclean Fancier ought to be ashamed, it is to be hoped he will never do so any more. In a former part of this work I called your particular attention to cleanliness. Remove the cause that produces evils, the effect would follow. The Fancier may say this advice comes too late, for his birds have got it, which nobody can deny ; this unfortunately being the case, I will instruct him how to cure it :—take burnt alum and honey, and rub the part affected every day, most likely it will be cured ; should this not have the effect, dissolve five grains of Roman vitriol in half a spoonful of best white wine vinegar, add it the former composition, rub the part affected. Or take half an ounce of burnt alum, half an ounce of gunpower, a gill of best white wine vinegar, mix them well together, take one of your pigeon's flight or tail feathers you will find about your aviary or loft, anoint the part affected ; you must use one of these prescriptions with the feather, anoint the inside of the throat twice a day. I do not object to raising the scurf, and cause it to bleed a little where it can be got at, believing it more effectual. There are Fanciers who object to this, thinking it searching enough without. You can try it without, if it does not succeed, then raise the scurf a little ; fortunately for me not having occasion to use these prescriptions, I have never tried the burnt alum, gunpowder, and vinegar, but entertain a high opinion of its effects, owing to the strong assurances I have received from some of the best Fanciers. It is absurd and childish twaddle to assert that the canker arises from birds fighting ; call things by their right name, then I do not object. You may say cocks fight, and get pecked on the head ; this is true, if you like to call it sores on the head, I have no objection, and if you apply the prescription, or use a little alum and water, will cure it, do not on any account say it is the cause of canker, if you do, you assert anything but the truth.

561. With cleanliness and care I think your birds will not be troubled with diseases, besides the delight it will afford you of seeing your birds healthy, vigorous, and clean : on the contrary—Woe be to you ! Fanciers differ with regard to the treatment of birds, if unwell, some giving pills made of rhubarb, others giving pills made of bitter aloes, my favourite pill is a compound of both. The way I do is to take a good many at once, when they are not breeding, I remove their water overnight, and keep them some hours in the morning without, when I think they are very thirsty, give them their water as usual, with this difference : dissolve some Epsom salts, and mix it with their water, they being very thirsty will not discover it until after they have drank heartily ; I cannot tell you what quantity to mix not knowing how many birds you intend giving it to ; should you have any birds in your aviary, or loft, that are scoured or purged, remove them while the salts is in the water, if any is left, throw it away at night and let them have their water as usual without any salts, then restore the birds that you consider too loose.

562. I hinted before in a former part of the work it was possible I might have overdone some things, on reasoning, I am not afraid of killing a pigeon, which I would treat as mankind ; I will suppose my having a stomach full of hard old beans and a pigeon with a stomach full of hard old beans, the pigeon got rid of the beans before I did, (for ought I know the beans might kill me), the inference I draw the pigeon was strongest, at all events its digestive powers ; although I should not be alarmed for fear of killing an old bird, I should act cautiously where there were young ones, from one hour to one week old, not give the salts and water where these young birds were, not knowing the effect, it might purge and kill them. Were no young birds under three weeks old, the feeders partaking of the salts and water, and then feeding these big young ones, my opinion is, not any evil would arise, on the contrary good, inasmuch as it might cleanse the craw, prevent canker in the throat, cool the young bird which is very hot, freely purged, at the same time the Fancier can exercise his own judgment.

563. Peppercorns are very good to give old birds, or those that appear cold, every

other day, giving three, by no means exceeding four at a time. They should be taken from the aviary or loft, judiciously placed near the fire for a few days. In my experience if birds are kept too long before the fire they seldom recover, air is more important to their health than heat—but changes are requisite at times. You will find in your experience some birds may live one or two years, never hardy or vigorous, will not match up, but moping about, even from the nest; unfortunately it happens they have some good properties about them, otherwise we should effectually cure them by cutting off their heads. I consider more birds die of consumption, or wasting away, than any other complaint, that is a reason why I endeavour to keep my birds fat. There is some little danger, not a tenth part where the birds waste away and die of decline; sometimes it happens a bird will fall from its perch on the floor like a stone, on picking it up will be dead, as fat as butter, no doubt the cause was overflow of blood to the head, and might be called apoplexy. The vertigo or meagrims arises from the same cause. If I happen to be in my aviary, or loft, a bird falls off its resting place, or taken in a fit, I plunge it into cold water as quickly as possible, and give it two compound rhubarb and bitter aloe pills. There cannot be a doubt making a small puncture in the roof of the mouth to let out a little blood might be attended with good effect, as apoplexy, or vertigo, arises from too great a fulness of blood in the vessels of the head; if you do not let blood, well drench them with the pills.

564. There are many absurd things recommended for the cure of pigeons too numerous to mention, I will give you one or two—such as spiders wrapped in butter. Where would you find a spider in a genteel house, unless you went into the wine cellars, there your cobwebs are ornaments, as mirrors or glasses to your drawing rooms. If there is any charm it arises from the butter; then again giving them three or four cloves of garlick. When I got garlick for my pigeons it so happened it was the first and last time, when I had stripped it and came to the clove, I thought I would give it, if I wanted to choak my bird, not having such desire I refrained from giving it; likewise giving them a purge of tobacco—these things are too troublesome. It is possible you might get the garlick down the throat by quartering it, then four cloves making sixteen pieces: a pretty treat to a Fancier if he has anything else to do, or to crown all, get tobacco water down their throats to give them a purge.

565. I am sensible the Almond Tumbler Fancier has great command of temper and patience, he need have the patience of Job to try these things. My young Fancier, I have not the power or right to prevent you from trying all you hear or read as to cures, shall content myself with following my old fashioned way of considering a preventive better than a cure. I am aware there are complaints over which we have no control—for instance: a bird even from the nest never having a sound constitution, the vertigo or meagrims, fits, &c.; If I have a bird ill, from whatever cause, or bad eyes, &c, I take it to my friend the chemist, he treats it as he would you or me, I advise you, my young Fancier, to do the same, the sooner you take it after you have discovered something wrong in the bird the better. According to your station in life, you may have an intimate friend or companion, a physician, surgeon, &c, as they are gentlemen by education, their good sense teaches them, if you broach the subject, it was not intended as an insult. I cannot inform you, otherwise I would, what it was that cured the black mottled cock of the vertigo or meagrims, not considering it a fair question to put to my friend the chemist. I now recollect taking MOORE's book to the chemist, and calling his attention to paragraph 88, I have not any doubt the mixture he prepared was MOORE's prescription, at all events it is worth trying, (see MOORE and EATON's paragraphs 88). Old tallow the size of a bean is an excellent thing for the roop, (whether it is the wet or dry roop, which is a cold and cough,) put down their throat, heals their breast, and eases their breath; it is possible some good may arise from the butter (but the spider?)

566. It is possible, from reading this Treatise, if two birds were in a pen, the one a carrier, the other a Tumbler, you might be able to discover the Tumbler, from the great difference of the birds, when you come to know, the one-sixteenth part of an inch excites the admiration of good Fanciers, it is infinitely more appreciated, and greatly enhances the value of the bird. I have endeavoured to root and ground you in the most important things connected with the Almond Tumbler, by calling your particular attention to the five properties how to breed a good bird; ro raise it by food and drink, to preserve it alive for nine, ten, or more years by good management and

cleanliness, besides other things connected with the management of the aviary or loft. on taking leave of you for ever my inexperienced brother Fancier, I leave you to exercise your judgment in as wide a field as I found it, I conscientiously consider the remarks I have made are worthy the attention of the young Fancier, who has made up his mind to rank A. 1 in the Fancy, and has made up his mind not to rank second best.

567. If you do not keep a man or boy to look after your birds, when you go into your aviaries or lofts, whatsoever you have to do, do quickly ; not saunter or idle away your time as though to shew how lazy and sleepy you can be, let "quick" be the word. It will avail you nothing, whether the Author thinks little or much upon the subject, provided you do not think for yourself. If you have never thought before, and the perfections or imperfections of the five properties of the Almond Tumbler cause you to begin thinking, the Fancy will be a blessing to you, for you cannot think hard or deeply on the Almond Tumbler, without thinking on more important matters, which may lead to the salvation of your soul. If you are in the habit of attending your church, whether the established church, Wesleyan, Baptist or other denominations, depend upon it you will never hear bad advice, depend upon it there are faithful ambassadors of Christ among them, I have been delighted often with hearing the ambassadors, even from a "mud heap," and only regret there are not more of them about. Should you neglect attending the "house of God," through your hobby for Pigeons, give your Pigeons up at once, otherwise it may cost you your immortal soul. You may say this is out of place in a work like this, a word or two and I am done ; I think out of every book we ought to learn something good, I plainly tell you and you are aware of it, if you are damned, t is because you do not believe, he that believeth shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned. I caution you not to make a mistake in believing, there is a saving belief, and there is a damning belief ; devils believe and tremble, there are men who are called christians pretend to believe, and trifle.

568. Should you, after reading this Treatise, be in doubt on the properties of an Almond Tumbler, the only thing left me is, to advise you to look to the Portrait at the beginning, to guide your judgment in the choice of such birds as are likely to be of service to you. With my Friends I often stated it to be my intention to write a Treatise on the Almond Tumbler, I abandoned it, after finding it was my master-piece ; but the exhibition, comparatively speaking, in everybody's mouth ; I could not take up a newspaper, periodical, or any new work, without its appearing to me all Exhibition : that some of the people of All Nations were about to exhibit something, I thought I would like to exhibit too ; what to exhibit bothered me ; consulting some of my friends what to exhibit, some said exhibit your ————————, "I said I am sure I will not do that ;" after some consideration the idea struck me of the Almond Tumbler, believing the people of All Nations had not contemplated bringing out a work of this kind, that it would be too bad not to present the young and inexperienced Fancier with a treatise on the Almond Tumbler, at the time of the Exhibition, for these reasons I would make an attempt even should I fail ; when the work is printed, I come to read it over, I expect to be vexed, owing to omissions which I should have had great pleasure in communicating to you.

569. "There is a time and season for all things," as the wise man observed, and the time has now arrived for us to part, I think I cannot say it may be for years, I think I can with truth say it will be for "ever." You and I may never meet in this world, let us hope we may meet in a better, at my time of life I never expect to take up my pen to write or compile another work, the subject will not admit of it, that I am aware of ; In endeavouring to rack my poor weak brains, or brainless head, others may condense my work and bring it out as a new work, in bidding you farewell for ever allow me to suggest, has the perusal of the foregoing pages been the means of making you, my young Fancier, a more ardent admirer of the Almond Tumbler ? do you see fresh beauties while studying the properties of this much admired bird ? do you feel a determination to excel in this pleasing and intellectual study ? if this is the effect it has produced in your mind, I shall consider myself fortunate in producing such a result, and I do most sincerely hope you may experience as much pleasure and satisfaction as I have myself enjoyed. I believe the Almond Tumbler may be improved beyond what it has hitherto been, that new beauties may be discovered and a higher standard

as a Beau Ideal of each amateur, and that it may as far exceed the present standard as that which is now looked up to, does that of half a century back.

570. Hoping you may long enjoy the pleasure and the intercourse of intelligent and agreeable Brother Fanciers, and that you may be able to exclaim—Happy is the man, that forsakes his vices, and becomes an enthusiastic admirer of the Almond Tumbler, it is the sincere wish of a Brother Fancier who has devoted time, care and attention to the subject.

The Author,
A Brother Fancier,
With greatful acknowledgments for past favors,
JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

81, Upper Street, Islington, London, N.
Late 7, Islington Green,
The Commissioners having altered the Number.

NOTES

ON

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING THE

ALMOND TUMBLER.

BY JOHN BOYS, ESQ.

TO THE YOUNG FANCIER,

571. I shall endeavour to be brief as possible, fearing I have already ran out farther than I intended. Some time after I had written my Almond Tumbler (1st of May, 1851), I received letters from JOHN BOYS, Esq., Magistrate of Margate, Kent, a rare and experienced Fancier, who took two copies of my Work on the Almond Tumbler; after reading it over he highly complimented me on my production, stating, that it was his intention to have written a Work himself. Having carefully read over my Work, he abandoned the idea, and kindly offered me all his manuscript and marginal notes, to make whatever use I thought fit of them; "and what use do you think I have made of them;" to hand them down to you to read, mark, learn, and inwardly to digest; at the same time giving the credit to the observer, JOHN BOYS, Esq., Magistrate of Margate, Kent, for his observations.

572. I am particularly desirous the Fancier should not by any possibility overlook or forget, that whenever he is called at this part of the Work with regard to the page, it has reference only to the Work published 1802—1804; either of the years will do, as the one is only a re-print of the other, entitled—A new and complete Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler, by an Old Fancier (name not mentioned); the great unknown was no other than —— WINDUS, Esq., Solicitor, Southampton Buildings, Holborn; as far as I can, I wish to keep the names of old and experienced Fanciers alive, when I refer you to the Columbarian Work, I refer you to the Author — WINDUS, on whose Work JOHN BOYS, Esq.'s remarks apply, and that only.

573. On the 7th of October, 1851, I received JOHN BOYS, Esq.'s Book, with his marginal notes, and having an exact copy of the Work I copied his notes into a fellow copy, word for word, with this little difference:—

574. "This day, Oct. 7th, 1851, received through the Post, the work on the Almond Tumbler, dedicated to the Gentlemen of the Columbarian Society, with the notes of JOHN BOYS, Esq., Magistrate, &c. of Margate, Kent, for which I feel grateful, and shall fill them in this book, as he has done in the book he has sent me.—JOHN M. EATON."

575. "The notes and corrections in this book have been made, some ten, some twenty, and some thirty years ago, and up to the present time, as they occured to me from experience.
Margate. JOHN BOYS."

576. WINDUS, p. 4 and 5. His remarks as regards the prices of Almonds,—"M. 1805 and 6. Excellent birds were to be had at five guineas a pair, although occasionally they reached from ten to fifteen guineas; they are much improved since that period, but most difficult to be met with."

577. Page 6. "Those who criticise and scoff at this Fancy should take care not to become a Florist Fancier, or an admirer of improved Horses, Dogs or Sheep; nor exchange his ignorance for the knowledge of the best Piccatees, Dahlias, Tulips (worth ten and twenty guineas a piece), Roses (of which there are 1500 varieties), Anemonies, Heart-ease, Ranunculusses, Auriculars, &c. &c. &c."*

578. Page 7. Writing from experience, "and by practice and experience to know how to mix and improve the color of the Feather by the matching of the males and females." Writing of what are beauties and what are imperfections: "Those whose experience enables them to produce variety of Feather, may, by the matching of the parents, also learn something of Nature's laws in the marriage and qualification of human parents, both in personal forms and principles, by inheritance either of health, disease or sense."

579. Page 12. On the handling of a Pigeon: "The mode of handling a bird shews at once whether the holder is a Fancier or not, even a wild and violent bird will become quiet in the hand of an experienced Fancier." On a badly formed head, "which is termed Mous-ey."

580. Page 13. Writing on the property, beak, "it should never exceed six-eighths, at the present day some are barely five-eighths.—1848."

581. Page 14. "The Lofts. The best Fanciers will devote three or four rooms to his birds." The area; "by keeping the birds from strangers, and taming them with hemp seed to feed out of the hand, they may be caught and handled as easily as a dog or cat.

582. Page 15. On drafting young birds into another aviary. "By all means."

583. Page 16. On laying: "an experienced Fancier will always know within a few hours when the hen will lay her first egg of another nest; and I have found, in general, that a cock will not hunt and peck his hen so fiercely when his hen droops and laps her wings; but where he does he should be caged close to the hen's nest until she has laid her first egg."

584. Page 17. On the warmth of the loft or aviary. "But warmed air is most valuable." On dust: "All dust on the floor is certain to settle upon the oily feathers, and make the birds look filthy." Objecting to a cat in the loft; "I strongly object to a cat's guardianship."

585. Page 18. On pairing: "In 1851, I had only two thin-shelled eggs, and Paired twelve young ones in very cold weather, from sixteen pairs hatched in February."

586. Page 19. Advantage of separating birds; "Birds separated during winter may be rematched with perfect ease in February."

587. Page 20. On counteraction; "except as to their being both of too much fea-

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* Page 6. J. M. E.—His marginal notes here apply to those Splatherers, who (as Solomon beautifully observes, "you may bruise in a mortar, yet you cannot obtain gumption out of them") ridicule the Pigeon. It may be pardonable in some of these, simply because they are void of brains, not having been handed down to them; or they may have received an injury on a "large pimple," growing out at the top of their neck, which will never come to a head. But it is unpardonable in learned men, who attempt to write upon the Pigeon, who only burlesque the Pigeon; nevertheless, do not be ill-natured to such, but throw around them your mantle of love and charity as I mean to do, and to deeply lament and regret that learned men should attempt to write or ridicule a subject they do not understand.

ther, in which case they produce white and blind or purry-eyed birds. On not matching birds too high; "in this I quite agree, JOHN BOYS, 1849."

588. Page 21. On dun colour: "But on breeding for feather, they are most useful in high bred matches. A dun in general, is a brown black, or a black brown; at least, it is a very bad black, and sometimes a blue black. A good dun, in its first plumage, should shew a silvery appearance, that is, should seem to indicate that in its first moult it would become silvery."

589. Page 22. On pairing: "I recommend that pedigree in this case be attended to, for doubtless a parent, or grand-parent, of almost every splash may be traced, and if that parent was defective in any other point, the match of a young splash should be considered and regulated accordingly; in reference to the hen he should have, the splashes often fail in eye."

590. Page 23. On prevening a cock getting master of two pens: "I had one unruly cock, and could only cure him of his tricks by swinging him round and round until he was so giddy that he could not stand, and then put him into the breeding place where he had so trespassed, and the pair so trespassed upon gave him a sound thrashing, and forced him down from the nest, after which he desisted and gave up the point."

591. Page 24. On nest pans: "eight and a half inches out to out at top; three and a half deep, seven and a half wide bottom, outside. This is the admeasurement of my pans made on purpose. (Four dozen.)"

592. Page 25. On straw: "Oat straw is best."

593. Page 26. On the cocks worrying and driving hens to nest: "I think this is a useless precaution unless the birds are crowded. After the hen has laid the first egg, the cock becomes quiet, and whenever she is separated from amongst the crowd of other birds, he in general ceases to drive her; and it is better to leave them to themselves and to the instincts of nature, unless the cock be quite violent."

594. Page 27. On laying first egg: "Or soon after;" on second egg: "More frequently nearer about two o'clock."

595. Page 28. On laying; observes, see Page 37. "Quite unnecessary; warmth only is necessary; wrong and dangerous."

596. Page 29. On laying: "The necessity for this has never yet come under my observation, 1849; nor since.—J. B., 1851." "I have saved many an egg dropped on the floor, by placing a very small quantity of hay or straw under or round the egg, and watching that hen that will go to it, and, when discovered, I have put the egg into the nest intended for her, and shut her up until she has laid the second egg."

597. Page 31. On parting the birds: "I recommend the middle of September; because, late bred birds will otherwise be moulting in cold weather, and when this is the case, they seldom or never become strong and healthy, without artificial warmth, and much trouble. When a bird from a valuable breed happens to be hatched so late as in the second week of October, and if it be much desired to save it, the best plan is to let its parents or nurses lay once more, and compel them to lay in the nest where this young valuable one is, and by this means the parents will always be sitting on the new eggs with the young ones, and thereby the additional warmth will save it; then break the eggs and destroy the nest, about ten days after being sit upon."

598. Page 33. On barren birds.—See a note at the foot of page 34.

599. Pages 34-35. On hatching; "I think the author is mistaken on two points in reference to barren birds and the providing of soft meat. I have a pair of red mottles that have brought up four nests in the season of 1849, without once laying, but with a severe driving to the nest by the cock; upon each occasion I first gave them sham eggs, which I cheated to believe were laid on the first and third day, and upon one of those occasions when they had only set ten days I happened to have an odd young one, just hatched, and of little value, and for the sake of experiment, I put it under the barren birds, to try if they could furnish soft meat before the proper time, and I was agreeably surprised to find that they could and did supply it, although not so effectually as if they had sat the full seventeen days; but nevertheless, the supply was sufficient to save the young one, and they brought up the young one to be a remarkably strong one. It

should, however, be mentioned, that I gave the barren birds a mixed food or refuse—rice and bruised hempseed, in addition to what they could pick up out of the pigeon-house, and they became as good nurses as the other birds that bred in due course.

600. Page 35. On egg springing and chipping.—See page 37.

601. Page 36. On the least effusion of blood will be fatal to the fœtus: "not quite fatal."

602. Page 37. On hatching; "My practice was always as follows:—early on the seventeenth day if the egg remained entire and unchipped, I put the egg into a tea-cup full of water, blood warm, and the hollow part of the egg where the beak was, would always float uppermost; I then punctured the shell at that part to give air, and took away so much shell as was free from the caul or membrane, and then put the egg under the parent. In the evening, if no progress had been made, I cracked the egg-shell all round with my thumb nail, and on the following morning I found the young one had always been hatched, unless any blood had been shed by the operation.—J. B."

603. Page 40. On shifting; "sometimes the seventh."

604. Page 41. On shifting; "In general there should not be a greater length of time than seven days. I very seldom exceed three or four days and when the difference is so great as nine or ten days the young ones begin to show the color of their feather, and in consequence thereof the old ones will sometimes on discovering the cheat, kill them or turn them out of the nest; this however occurs but seldom." It is an excellent plan to remove the pans of young ones by slow degrees, i. e. from shelf to shelf downwards to the floor, where by placing clean straw in a warm corner the young of ten or twelve days old, on getting out of their nests will resort and cluster together, thereby obtaining constant warmth from each other, being fed by all the old birds that have young ones on the same floor, which is always the case. I have seldom less than five or six in a nest in this manner, at one time, on the floor.

605. Page 42. On hen with egg; "after the birds are paired the hen will go seven or eight days with egg before laying." On shifting; "How is this to be accomplished without endangering the nurselings placed under the care? The plan is not a good one in my opinion."

606. Page 44. On marks to ascertain the colour of birds.—See page 21.

607. Page 45. On marks, &c. "Several of these points are correct, but this is not to be depended on."

608. Page 46. On drafting young birds; "In this respect great caution is required; a young one should have eaten alone three or four days before being separated from its parents; for, upon being put amongst strange young ones, they will always at least cease to feed heartily and perhaps not at all, lose flesh, and become ill: the best plan is to draft them in the morning, and if towards evening their crops are empty, remove them back again to the parents until the following morning, and repeat this for two or three days, when they will do well, and may be finally separated safely. (1847.)"

609. Page 47. On drafting young birds and their food; "Fine refuse; rice at all times in the breeding season, or wheat, tares old, ticks old, hemp in very small quantity, and very seldom on rape; and canary I object to."

610. Page 48. On barren birds.—See page 34.

611. Page 51. On vermin, and blue ointment; "on each side of the breast bone; but it is too violent and dangerous a remedy upon a very valuable bird."

612. Pages 52-53. On fumigating; "My plan by fumigation has been very successful as follows:—Make a large brown paper bag with a hole through the bottom sufficient for a bird's head to be passed through it, put the bird in the bag with its head outwards through the hole, and then with fumigating bellows fill the bag with very strong tobacco smoke, taking care that the bird's head is kept on the outside, so as to breathe good air; in three or four minutes every insect will be killed, and set the bird at large; where eggs and knits are deposited amongst the neck feathers, repeat the fumigation about in the ensuing month.—Qu. Would not an oiled silken bag be more manageable and useful?

613. Page 54. On vermin.—"The common Pigeon Louse and Feather Louse are totally, and in all respects, different. Pigeons kept clean never have fleas. I have never tried this, fearing to destroy by the alkali in soap that oily coat which is on the feathers, and for a time keeping the bird much warmer than otherwise—a bird so treated is like a sheep shorn in cold weather." See M.S. note in the 52nd page.

614. Page 55. On vermin on fresh birds; "unnessary in the country, where birds are kept clean; but all newly added birds should be examined and cleaned."

615. Page 58. On plumage, rain, and water "Unless the spring water is from a chalky soil."

616. Pages 58-59. On flying the birds: "And especially if the loft is kept free from dust and dirt. On the contrary, more than half of my flyers are by good usage quite tame, and when I seat myself in an arm chair on the lawn, fly to me and surround me, several of them letting me handle them, and playing with me by pecking my fingers and cooing. This is quite true, I have a pair of red mottle, bred from Almonds, whose grandmother was a red, and both tumbled beautifully."

617. Page 60. On loam: "A bank of street sweepings, where the roads are daily watered with sea water, is superior to all other methods. The birds will always be upon the bank on account of the salt, and they swallow a quantity of fine gravel on that account."

618. Page 62. Gravel.—See the note at the foot of page 60.

619. Page 63. Mortar; "Mortar dust will greatly injure the plumage, and I never admit mortar; the dusty strong alkali, which, by settling on the feathers, kills the oil of the plumage, and the birds are always dirty."

620. Page 66. On their food; "I do not concur in this; if the food is damaged Nature points out to the old ones not to touch it, if they can get other food. Good old wheat and tares, old tick, and refuse rice, are the best articles of food, placed in hoppers, so that the old ones can always get what they like. The palate is their safest guide, having plenty of choice."

621. Page 67. On change of food.—see page 47. "Beyond a week or ten days at one period, change of food is of great advantage."

622. Page 68-69. On the healthy state of the birds: "In this year (1849) from five pairs of well bred birds I reared thirty-two young ones, by the aid of nine pairs of common Tumblers, as nurses, and by shifting the young ones of those high bred birds that deserted them. But I also attribute that success partly to diet, which I constantly watched; their principal food was old tick beans, and tares; but, for a day or two before hatching, I always gave the old birds a little refuse rice and hemp-seed every morning and evening, untill the parents had fed off their soft meat. By care I never lost a bird; for, in addition, I also watched the time of hatching, and frequently broke the shell of an egg when the young one was not strong enough to extricate itself, by first puncturing a small hole near the beak to give air, and on the following day cracking the shell all round the egg. The first nest in April all failed from cold weather; from the second set in May and June, I obtained five young ones; from the third set in June and July, I obtained six young ones; from the fourth set in July and August, I obtained nine young ones; fifth set in August and September, I obtained six young ones; and in the sixth and last set in September and beginning of October six more, making altogether thirty-two. After this, and as soon as the old birds began to show signs of going to nest again, I separated male from female, putting the young ones under the nurses. During the whole season I did not loose a bird either by disease or accident after the first three or four days. (J. B., November, 1849.)

623, Page 70-71. On parting the birds after breeding season.—See also page 31. "One of the methods to check going to nest again, is to make them, if you can, feed as many young ones as possible, as they are seldom with egg again whilst so feeding, and more especially if their pans be taken away. The feeding lowers the old ones, but not near so much as going to nest again; and by this method your young ones become much stronger birds, and more fitted to begin moulting before winter sets in." Page 72-73. "No sound Fancier will keep his birds together in winter. I think this of but

little importance; well managed birds in a roomy loft are best left to themselves; where crowded, the remarks will apply."

624. Page 74. "Query.—Was the above remark worth publishing?"

625. Page 75. On diseases: "I have never lost but one young bird from this disease [canker]; it is in fact a cancer, and in my opinion is hereditary amongst the highest bred birds when kept upon bad food, and in a filthy state; or why should I have escaped it amongst at least five hundred young ones."

626. Page 80. The roop; "Has never attacked my birds."

627. Page 81. The vertigo or meagrims; "Thirty-six years ago when my collection of Dragons (about thirty) every morning brought me from London, in slips, the leading article of the Morning Post newspaper tied round the leg, I had three birds attacked, but they recovered on resting them and giving good food. (Note in 1850.)"

628. Page 83. On the staggers; I have never had a bird die by being attacked by either of the last three diseases, which I attribute to care, diet, regimen and flying at large in fine weather." On scouring or purging;" "The astringent quality depends on the soil from whence the water issues, or the quality of the pipes which convey it."

629. Page 84. On small pox. "This disease never visited my birds."

630. Page 86. On the Fancier scarcely knowing his own birds, when sore in moult: "This is as true as it is remakable." On moulting; "Especially the late-bred young ones, which should be kept in warmer rooms, or at least where the cold air is excluded.'

631. Page 92. On a bad eye, most difficult to counteract; "So I think, (J. B.)"

632. Page 93. Sexes; "difficult to tell."

633. Page 94. Sexes of young birds: "By no means so easily decided until after they have moulted."

634. Page 97. On feeders: "I am rather adverse to keeping common birds for feeders, and prefer inferior bred Tumblers, Bald heads, or Beards; but they have this evil—by their constantly flying and tumbling, they encourage the young, high-bred birds to fly so much as to make them rather coarse, which is worse than shutting them up altogether. All birds with wings should be allowed to use them in moderation only."

635. Page 98. On young birds deserted, on getting food down their throat: "The present breed of small Almonds will not admit of beans. Give them sound old tares and wheat."

636. Page 100. On laying second egg: "If in good health: but if in a weakly state, it will be at two o'clock or later." On the Portrait of WINDUS's Almond Tumbler: "In 1850 I bred a black mottled cock, whose carriage in my opinion so far exceeded the representation here shewn in profile, that I employed an able painter to make an oil painting of the bird, but instead of preserving the black mottled feather, I gave the painter a richly Almond feathered bird to copy instead thereof, so that now I have an oil painting of as perfect and bright an Almond as can be produced to my taste. The two bird's were caged for the painter's guide."*

FINIS.

[AS REGARDS JOHN BOYS ESQ'S. NOTES.]

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* These Observations and Remarks are, upon the whole, true to the letter, which you will find in your experience; it is evident JOHN BOYS, Esq., was a very minute observer and reflector on the Almond Tumbler. Fanciers may differ on the minor points, they all agree upon the major points—the five properties of the Almond Tumbler. I should have acted dishonest to you, if I had withheld this vast amount of experience derived solely from Observation and Reflection from Fifty years study on the Art of Breeding and Managing: I should have been no less dishonest, if I had attempted to have disguised and cooked it up, and endeavoured to impose upon you, laying claim to it as touching the Originality. There is no doubt that JOHN BOYS Esq. could have

arranged his Observations infinitely better than I shall. Having his permission to make whatever use I thought fit of his Notes in the margin, the thought struck me it was pregnant with danger if I apprised him of my intention to publish his Observations, and would thank him, if not too much trouble, to put them in that form he would like them to appear in print; having permission in my possession I did not like to run the risk, he might for ought I know have withdrawn his permission. Should it so happen in your experience from Observations, the idea has struck you that you have witnessed things, that are worthy to be handed down to posterity among Pigeon Fanciers, and that it is not your intention to publish a Work, if you will forward them to me, should there be merit in them, I will take care they come to light among the gentlemen of the Fancy, and you shall have the credit as touching Originality.

TAKEN FROM AN OLD WORK.

ARTICLES:

I. The Members of this Society to consist of and to meet the in each Month from 7 o'Clock till 10 in the Evening.

II. Every Member to pay a Subscription of on or before the Meeting in each Year, and in default, to be excluded for the season.

III. No person to be admitted unless proposed and seconded by a Member on one Evening, and balloted for at the following Meeting, and should he have black balls, such persons not to be admitted.

IV. Each Member to Subscribe for Cock or Hen, or for both if it be his choice, and the Money paid at the time of Subscribing.

V. Every Member admitted after the Meeting Night in each Season to pay for his admission.

VI. Each Member to stand President for One Night, in rotation, when called upon, if not present to be fined .

VII. Premiums for breed of Birds to be settled on or before the Night in each Year, and entered in the Cash Book, and all Wagers made in this Society to be paid when decided, and half the Money given to the Treasurer to be spent on the Show Day of each Season.

VIII. Any Member present not producing a Bird of his own Breed on the to forfeit and showing a Bird not his own and if any Birds be sold, the buyer and seller to pay each to the Stock.

(Eaton.)—I have seen Rules of a Society, brought out by a parcel of shop keepers, that appeared to me as though brought out to bird-lime the House of Lords or Commons. No doubt, as a Fancier, you have heard of the peg-ing of Chaffinchers or bat-fowling of Birds, as you neither wish to be peg'd with bird-lime or bat-folder, neither do I wish an injunction in Chancery lodged against me for taking in vain the rules or articles of this Aristocratic Society. I am aware there are some men, who wish to be thought Fanciers, who would not like to sit in a room with Fanciers unless they sported a little bit of black satin or a velvet waistcoat; I consider this ignorant or uncharitable feeling was, in a great measure, the cause that accelerated the defunct of the once celebrated original "Columbarian Society," to whom we owe so much. There are times, seasons, and places for various grades of society; if a man is only a gentleman, and not a Fancier, let him only keep gentlemen's society; if a man is a Fancier, let him keep Fanciers society, and conduct himself as a gentleman; if a man is a self-created proud aristocrat, speaking high sounding words, suiting the action to the words, both added together, the sense signifying nothing, my advice to this proud self-made, and self-esteemed aristocrat, is to stay at home and look after his Chandler-shop. I am sensible there is another class of men—I have made a mistake, I should have more properly have called them fidgetty old ladies, who assumes that a man, whatever his station in life, whether a Peer or Artisan, must be an incorrigible blackguard that keeps Pigeons. I will not waste your or my time here with these nincompoops—see page 4, paragraph, "I scarce know, &c., &c." How different was the case with the spirited and celebrated

Fancier the late Sir JOHN SEBRIGHT, M.P., who would astonish the House of Commons and the country with his speeches, and the next day would be among the Spital Field's weavers, looking at their studs of birds. It is proverbially said of him, comparatively speaking, he would go up a Chimney to look at a good bird, for some of the goings up to the places where they kept their birds was little less trouble than going up a chimney, nevertheless formerly they had excellent birds. Which proves my remarks, as the wise man observed, "that there are times, seasons, and places for all things.

ORDINANCES

ESTABLISHED BY THE

COLUMBARIAN SOCIETY, AT THE GLOBE TAVERN, FLEET STREET,

RESPECTING THE PERFECTIONS AND IMPERFECTIONS OF

ALMOND OR ERMIN TUMBLERS,

1764.

PERFECTIONS.

I.

FEATHER.

Consists of three colours, viz., Black, White, and Yellow, intermixed, or variously and richly displayed. Ground, the best Yellow. The Rump, Yellow and Spangled. Tail, the most Yellow and striped.

II.

HEAD.

To be Round and Small. The Forehead, High. The Beak, Short and Small. The Eye, a bright pearl colour round the Pupil.

III.

SHAPE.

A Small Body, Prominent Chest, and Good Symetry.

IMPERFECTIONS.

I.

FEATHER.

Ash Colour, or Blue, Barr'd on the Flight.

II.

HEAD.

Thin, Long Snouted. Beak, Long and Thick. Eye, all Black or Red, or broken colour.

III.

SHAPE.

Long Body. Large, with Small Chest.

IMPERFECTIONS

Inadmissible at a SHEW for the PRIZE.

Blue Ermins, Ermins with entire blue tails, and Ash coloured Ermins.

(EATON.) I believe the late celebrated Columbarian Society was a continuation of this society, its name being the same "Columbarian Society," the Columbarian Society existed over a century which causes me to think it was part or continuation of this society, it generally held its meetings in the localities of Fleet Street, or Holborn, changes from holding their meetings always at the same place, from some cause or other are likely to take place in a century, but from what I can glean, still their meetings were held near the localities I have mentioned, while my attention is called to the year 1764. It is possible this society existed for years before they had rules, laws, articles or ordinances, as they were pleased to call them, I know at this time, 1858, excellent societies that have existed for many years, that have no printed rules, regulations

or standards, (I consider none the better for that,) they are gentlemen and don't require laws to keep them in order; as to Standards, they are Fanciers and know what birds ought to be. I have the honor to preside over a society of between fifty and sixty members, gentlemen fanciers, and as touching their knowledge of the different varieties of Pigeons, (as a society) is not equalled by any society under the sun, whether learned or unlearned I consider it unfortunate. We have not printed rules and standards at this time, I think we shall not go over another season without them. It is possible 1764 is a re-print, or the society, as I observed before, have existed many years, prior to their ordinances being printed, which causes it to fall short, 6 years of a century, according to the ordinances. I am at a loss to account for the society dropping the last letter, e, in Ermine, it is possible it was spelt that way at the time; it is possible, a century back, they had Ermine birds with two colours, black and white, from which it derived its name, as well as having Almonds, with the three colours, black, white and yellow, from the yellow or almond ground this bird derived its name Almond, and compared to well broken Tulips, and may be the cause of confounding the "Ermine with the Almond." Looking at the portrait that accompanies the ordinances as a frontispiece, 1764, I thought it was printed from the same plate that accompanies the work, dedicated to JOHN MAYOR, Esq., being so much alike, (I am satisfied that the engraver who did the one, executed the other, one has SIMPSON Sculp, the other no name.) On more minutely examining the portraits, I observe the portrait of 1764, with fewer spots on it, like an Ermine, or what we call a gay Mottle, the other portrait only one year after, that accompanies the work dedicated to JOHN MAYOR, Esq., has a deal more feather in the body of the bird, the hackles of both the birds are very dark, they are only neat heads, down beaks, not straight, with long legs. If the two engravings were faithful likenesses of what the Ermines or Almonds were in 1764, or 1765, all I can say they were nothing to boast of. Allow me to imagine for a moment: the idea strikes me that JOHN MAYOR, Esq., was President of the Columbarian Society at these dates, 1764 and 1765; that DANIEL GIRTIN, Esq., was a member, that he wrote the work and dedicated it to JOHN MAYOR, Esq., President of the Society, by way of a compliment; afterwards he brought out the same work and attached his name to it. On a moments reflection it is evident those who were members of the Columbarian Society, say 1840 or 1850, could not have been members of the Columbarian Society of 1764, the course of nature would not allow it, although the late Mr. HARRY EDWARD MOREY, Chairman of the City Columbarian Society, who was a member of the society I am writing of, and an excellent old Fancier, used to say, however low at times his stud of birds were reduced, he never was without Pigeons for the last sixty years, still this would fall short of going back to 1760, which proves my opinion that the late celebrated Columbarian Society was a continuation of this Society.

(EATON.) To my young Fancier, as great progress has been made in these birds from the time MOORE Esq., wrote his work, 1735, to the time the work was dedicated to MAYOR, Esq., 1765, thirty years, further progress was made in these birds from 1765 to 1800, and very great progress has been made from 1800 to the present time, 1858. I now put it to you, my young Fancier, if you still go on progressing, what will the Almond Tumbler be in the year 1900, allowing 42 years. I shall never live to see the year 1900, but I have my eye on some young Fanciers, who are about 25 years of age, that are likely to see it, should they continue in the fancy, I see no reason why they should not, for 'tis said "Once a Fancier, always a Fancier." As Fanciers have made progress for the last 123 years, it is possible you may make a little progress in the next 42 years, in the five properties, you may breed a more perfect bird; your greatest chance in improving the bird will be the property feather from which the bird derives its name, "Almond," it may be you will obtain in these 42 years a more rich bright yellow or almond colour, with a more decided sound black, I scarce think, with the other four properties, we have gone so far that we cannot go further, at the same time I have seen birds that will take a great deal to beat, and especially to eclipse, the same opinion may have been entertained by good Fanciers a century or two back, I believe I have seen as good Almonds as ever was seen as touching the five properties, Head, Beak, Eye, Shape and Feather, as any of my brother fanciers, still I never saw a perfect bird in the five properties, some property or other was deficient; a perfect bird is scarce to be expected where there are five properties in it, and each property taken to an exceeding high standard, still the aspiring young fancier should press forward to gain the prize that very many other

fanciers aspired to. I have seen perfect birds, as they are called, where a queer or low standard is taken ; but the fact is, the birds and the standards put together was worth nothing, should the young fancier progress in the 42 years I have given him, on the five properties, the Almond Tumbler will be a "wonder" to behold, I stated I thought I had seen as good birds as ever was seen on the five properties, I have seen three Almond bred birds whose distance, as short faced birds, did not exceed the half inch, never saw seven-sixteenth of an inch bird. I will not be hard with the gentlemen of the fancy, I will give them 42 years simply only to reduce the distance from half-inch to seven-sixteenth of an inch, after all it is only the one sixteenth part of an inch, you may think I am very charitable, or what is that, "simply try it," I believe it will not be accomplished, you may say no doubt good fanciers, a century ago, might have believed the birds they had, could not have been improved, I believe it may have been thought so.

(Eaton.)—There are many things that astonishes many people, but what astonishes me is, now that I have nearly brought my work to the end, I find my feelings strongly working upon me, and that I am becoming quite enthusiastically poetical. You may reason as the Welsh farmer churchwarden did with the Clergyman of the Parish, when he gave him a gentle hint that he never gave them a dash, shower, or flood of Latin or Greek in his sermons ; the conscientious Clergyman replied, if he did, his congregation would not understand it. The witty Welch Churchwarden replied, as they paid for the best, they had a right to have it. You may reason with me on the terms, that as I have charged you the best price, therefore you have a right to have a little poetry. Then, without further beating about the bushes, I will come to the point at once, as the Life-Guardsmen said to the Chinamen.

"Put a Tailor on horseback,
And he'll ride to the Old Gentleman dressed in black."

It is impossible for me to say how the style, metre, or measure, pleases you, it scarely pleases me ; I think I have seen poetry that runs smoother or more in rhyme, take "Pope" for instance. You may say, I have taken a step in the right path as regards the measure, that if I go on as I have begun, by the time I get to the end it will be good measure ; you may say, the second line is twice as long as the first, which some would say was extra measure. As it is my first attempt at poetry, and as it scarcely pleases me, I had better try my hand at it "to-morrow," and bring it out in a separate volume. At the same time, you may say, a work without poetry would be like a landscape without a stream, I will therefore give you the best I can cater or glean for you on the subject.

TAKEN FROM AN OLD WORK.

"May honor be all our aim,
When ever we assemble together;
May the Birds that we breed increase fame,
Among united Friends of the Feather.
Among Friends of the Feather, being already known,
The Almonds the Birds we propose to be shown,
With your round and broad heads, quick stops and pearl eyes,
If all other properties must take the prize.
Bring your rich standard Cocks and best Almond Hens,
With Birds of first rate to furnish the pens,
If your judges in judgment be nothing deficient,
May gratify all if nothing clandestine.
So Friends of the Feather, support honor so bold,
May your fame be thus mounted with trophies of gold.

I promised you at page 6 a Preface, (that there should be something new under the Sun,) therefore I have placed it at the end of the Book ; my object being to bring you sooner to the subject of the Work. Also some Extracts from my Work on the "Almond Tumbler," also my work on "Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons," and other matter.

THE PREFACE.

Owing to the noise of the rattling of carriages of every description before daylight, and not being able to sleep, I got up, lighted my candle, made up my mind to endeavour this day to contribute more to the Work (The Almond Tumbler) that I am engaged upon, than any other day I shall have it in hand. This day, 18th of November, 1852, is appointed for the solemn funeral of the mortal remains of the immortal Wellington; such a sight will take place this day as never was witnessed before in England, and never will be witnessed again. He richly merited all that a grateful Nation lavished or bestowed upon him. Filling the office, he could not help the loss of life; he treasured and husbanded the lives committed to his charge, and did not spill a single drop of blood more than could by any possibility be helped; taking into consideration what he had to accomplish, and it is a question whether any other man could be found that would have spilled so little; notwithstanding, he had some of the greatest and bravest officers that ever lived. Owing to a grateful Nation paying their last debt of gratitude to the spiritless body (for the spirit had returned to God, who gave it) of the Great Iron Duke. Take him for all in all, I believe him to be the greatest man that has been born into the World, since Jesus Christ, in whom he trusted; I believe the Nation believes that he could glory and exult with a confidential hope, whenever he uttered these words; for I know that my "Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, and, though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another, though my reins be consumed within me." Job, xix. chap., 25th, 26th, 27th verses.

This grave is incomplete, craving the ashes of that great and good Statesman, the late Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart., the greatest and best Statesman this Country ever produced. He had the Poor at heart, and caused the Widow and the Orphan Childrens' heart to leap for joy. He was the cause of making provisions cheap for the Poor. It was a great loss to the Nation at the time, there not being a Public Funeral for so good a man. John Bull is a heavy, at the same time a deep thinking man. He is not altogether forgetful, and may reason, the promise may be long delayed, but cannot come too late. This may be applicable to the raising of the monument to Nelson. Years may roll on before the Nation claims the ashes of the greatest and best-hearted statesman it ever produced, to perfect the grave that lays under the centre of the dome of Saint Paul's; then will the Nation have its Trinity in Unity (I do not mean the incomprehensible union of the three persons in one Godhead.) But having the greatest Sailor, the greatest Soldier, and the greatest and best Statesman this country ever produced, laying side by side and their dust mingling together. I may not live to witness it, but believe it must take place to complete the grave.

Mr. Moore, Paragraph 6, writes, give me leave to entertain you with the story, &c. &c. I have only simply and plainly to inform you, that it is not my intention to apologise to you in stating facts.

When I had concluded my Treatise on the Almond Tumbler, 1851, and bid you farewell, after giving you my observations and reflections on the subject, I called your attention to the "Wise Man's Saying," Pargraph 569, "There is a time for all things, and the time had arrived for us to part." Judge of my surprise, in 1852, with pen in hand, endeavouring to compile a Work on Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons in general, as encouraged by the acknowledged best Fanciers that ever lived, and Paragraph 410, informed you there was nothing so base as ingratitude, and I cannot bring my mind to bear otherwise, and brand myself with ingratitude, if I did not attempt to compile a Work worthy your acceptance, after the highly complimentary Testimonials of the Press, besides many letters from all parts of the country to the same effect,

pressing me to write a Work on Fancy Pigeons in general; I repeat, judge of my surprise, appearing before you again in so short a time; it was the last of my thoughts after having completed my Almond Tumbler, on that I caught a Tartar.

Should the Work, or compilation, which it is my intention to lay before you, not please after reading it over, blame yourselves not me, for endeavouring to carry out your earnest entreaties; I can assure you it is no joke to bring out a Work on the subject, it will make enemies of a few waspish, crabby Fanciers ("but they are not all the Fanciers in the World!"), who do not wish the young Fancier to know more than answers their purpose. The first time the idea struck me of writing the Almond Tumbler, I mentioned my intention; a gentleman remarked, if I wrote one he would answer it; it may be this put a damper upon me and my work at the time, I abandoned it: time rolled on—I gained more experience—all the world in a fever about the forthcoming Exhitition, I was desirous of bringing out something; after racking my brains (which I think, generally, is about as clear as mud in a wine glass) the idea of the Almond Tumbler struck me, which I brought out. Mark the remarks that was made upon it by men who knew better, they "did not believe I had the ability to produce such a work." Others went so far as to give the credit to my much respected and esteemed Brother Fancier, Mr. Dean Wolstenholme, as the Author; who was the engraver of the Portrait of the Amond Tumbler, the set of Six Portraits, life size, and all the engravings in this Work. In stating facts, after having written my work, and prior to consigning it to Press, I thought it right to read it over to some friend or friends. I prevailed upon Mr. Wolstenholme, whose judgment upon Pigeons in general is second to no man, and whose honesty in these matters qualifies him for an impartial judge upon any occasion; and also upon my much esteemed respected old school-fellow, a young and inexperienced Fancier, who had not much time, and less money to lay out in the Fancy, who was a common-sense man; before my two friends I read over the manuscript; Mr. Wolstenholme gave me two ideas and no more, which I will give you.

First.—Sir John Sebright said, he would produce any given feather in three years; but it would take him six years to obtain head and beak.

Second.—(Paragraph 513, on my writing on Beak.)—"By breaking the upper mandible when the bird is a few days old; it may be detected, from the injury it has received, similar to our own flesh when we have received a severe pinch; it may also be detected in the bird when grown up, by the position of the beak, it has an unnatural appearance, the beak pointing upwards." For these two ideas I feel grateful to my friend and brother Fancier—the Animal Artist, Wolstenholme. The case was different with my much respected, esteemed, and old school-fellow, Henry Major, who would not tell a lie to oblige a friend, or hurt a foe. He was not an experienced Fancier, not having been long enough in the Fancy. He said he could not give a single idea. But he thought, without altering the idea, by transposing some of the sentences, would read better. He did so; we read them over, and approved of the transposition, for which I feel grateful. I am aware there are a few Fanciers who would have given the credit (provided there was any due) to Mr. H. Major, it would not do, simply because he was not a sufficient Fancier.* It appears to me some Fanciers were willing to give the credit, provided there was any due, to any one save me, the Author.

I will lay before you a few paragraphs, some extracted from letters to a young Fancier, but old schoolfellow, Mr. Henry Major, Geelong, Australia.

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* Allow me in this part to give you a portion of a Letter I received from my much respected old school-fellow, Henry Major, on board the "Peru," lying wait off Gravesend, to sail for Geelong, Port Phillip, Australia:—

"2nd Sept., 1852.

"Dear Eaton,

"In case you were not able to come down to see us once more, I thought I would drop you a line to say, We are well, and going on as well or better than we could expect, &c. &c. I trust that every incident that may happen may serve to reconcile us to a voyage, and to life on the other side of the Globe, &c. &c. Remember me

September 5th, 1852.

My dear Harry, &c., &c,

You will be surprised when you come to read what I am about to inform you; a short time prior to your leaving old England, that you loved, made a vow to your better half, provided circumstances would allow to come back, and lay your weary head low in old England, who, you said, "You loved with all its faults;" It is possible you can reccollect, I shewed you a paper; I headed it "Wisdom," reasoned what I should gain or lose in the estimation of Fanciers in general, if I attempted a Work on Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons; the conclusion we came to, was, I had every thing to lose and nothing to gain, therefore came to the determination to abandon the idea for ever, especially as I could not obtain my text, (JOHN MOORE'S Work, 1735); although it cost me many pounds one way and the other, to obtain the book, besides great loss of time, I searched every Bookseller, North, East, South and West, besides advertising it several times through the different channels. Had I not seen and read the Work, should not have believed there was such a Work. The Fancier to whom the Work belonged, used to say it was the only copy in the World; he promised me more than a year, he would lend it to me, (if he had, I had made up my mind to have employed some one to have written it out before I returned it), he had lent it to a Fancier, and could not get it back.

You had scarcely sailed, 3rd September, for Geelong, having two gentlemen to wait upon in town with the difference of about an hour and a half as to time; knowing by the time I arrived home, it would be time to start again to wait upon the other, I thought I might as well loiter about as to work hard for nothing; being in a bookselling neighbourhood, the idea struck me I would try if possible to obtain MOORE'S work, by passing away the time, believing booksellers with their immense stock of old books, not having a methodical catalogue of their old books, and being busy at times, when a question is put to them without considering answer, No! it is possible booksellers may not have a work to-day, who knows but they may have it to-morrow. I was determined to make good use of this one hour and a half surplus time on my hands, went into many bookshops, the answer was No! No! No! You must Hunt it up! I thought I had hunted it up, the more I hunted it the further I was off the scent, I knew my labour to obtain this book, better than any one can tell me; if you doubt what I say, take a bumper and try to obtain it.

Seeing two boys in deep conversation at an extensive second-hand or old book shop, I believe if I had asked one of them if he had MOORE on Pigeons, he would have said No! (I had my wits about me for the first and last time), I arrested both their attentions, stating I would stand a glass or a shilling's worth of brandy and water if he had got the book I wanted, told the boy to consider before he said No! the two boys looked at each other, I took them by surprise, "I think they smelled the brandy and water;" afte a little consideration one of the boys went down a tremendous long shop to his em-

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to DEAN WOLSTENHOLME, and every Brother Fancier (if I may have the vanity to call myself one), convey my best wishes, and tell them, when I am far away I shall still bear them in remembrance.

"Farewell, ... and believe me to remain,

"Yours most sincerely,

"HENRY MAJOR."

The vessel sailed the following morning, 3rd September, his Old Friend and myself went to see him, but the vessel had sailed a few hours before we arrived, to our great disappointment.

Why was I so great an admirer of MAJOR, he was a man of integrity and of truth, and would yield to no man if he thought he was right; in argument, on different topics, at times, we were mountains high, (but we agreed to differ, believing each other sincere,) and to use an expression of his elder brother, Mr. GEORGE MAJOR, that he carried about him so large a quantity of Carbonic Gas, he was afraid to come near him for fear of being "Blown up."

ployer, who went and laid his hand upon a book ; I saw the boy coming with a book in his hand, I thought it was something about Pigeons, never thought it was MOORE'S work ; to my astonishment and delight it was the identical work I was in search of, having it in my hands, I thought my eyes would have darted out of the sockets of my head when I beheld the book, I thought, "I'll be blessed if ever this book leaves my hands, whatever the price." I paid the price, the boy had his shilling, all pleased with the transaction.

I began to think upon the work, recollecting it contained so much matter I had read before in other works, I was determined to see what amount of original matter belonged to each writer upon Pigeons, took MOORE'S 1735, then MAYOR, 1765, compared them as I read, interlined MAYOR'S work, what I found in MOORE, that which was not interlined, I considered original matter, I adopted this plan with all the works that was in my possession, I am not aware there are any I am not possessed of that is worth having ; I never hear talk of any ; and having JOHN BOYS, Esq.'s beautiful Observations and Reflections, derived from fifty years experience, the idea struck me what use I would make of them, entertaining so high an opinion of the late JOHN MOORE'S Work, as I heard there was not another copy, believing there could not be more than two or three copies in the world, I thought it a pity so valuable a work from which all others have grown out, should be lost for ever to the Pigeon Fancier, (for ought you and I know the book may have been stole from the gentleman to whom it was lent, and no wonder the Fancier could not get it back again, and that I purchased the work ; I think if it was so, it is excusable, considering the use I intend making of the book). I thought I would publish the work entire, and give the original matter due to other authors, besides endeavouring to make a few remarks from observations, as ideas struck me, when my Almond Tumbler was printed, I regretted I had not numbered the paragraphs, it was too late then. I borrowed the idea from COBBETT'S grammar, to paragraph this work.

When I brought out my Almond Tumbler, and read the manuscript over to you and WOLSTENHOLME, only two original ideas was added to the manuscript, the one, the trick of breaking the upper mandible of the beak, to form a straight or up beak. The other was the late Sir JOHN SEBRIGHT'S remark, he would breed feather in three years, would take six years to breed head and beak ; this was due to Mr. WOLSTENHOLME. Your labour was different, although you could not give me a single idea, that of transposing, you know some stated WOLSTENHOME was the Author. I came to the determination that this Work should go forth with all its faults—no doubt, are many—without its being read over to any one, rather than be nettled and stung by a few pismires. There may be good attending this, if these few will exercise their grammatical knowledge (or the want of it) ; then again, if they cast them up, it will improve them in their arithmetic. Should it require transposing, which it will, they can do with it as the cat does with the kitten—endeavour to lick it into liking. Why I should have taken notice of these few, that resemble the dog in the manger, that would not write themselves (to instruct the young and inexperienced Fancier), found fault with me for attempting ; besides stating they did not believe I had the ability to write my Almond Tumbler. Will these few believe now what they read, and exercise their abilities upon it, or will they attempt, after my weary head is laid low, in a cowardly lying way, lay claim to the Work, on Tame and Domesticated Pigeons, as being the Author, or having aided or assisted me in any way. Let them come forward in my life-time, not after I am dead, that I may be able to prove to the contrary ; but enough of this. The idea struck me I would endeavour to contribute my mite in rescuing the Work from the hands of rude Old Time, and hand it down for some years yet to come to my Brother Fanciers, believing no other Fancier had the intention. I am sensible as you are, when you come to read the Work over, you will discover inelegancies of ideas. I believe, had you been in England, I should have read the Work over to you, you knowing it would not do to dub you as the Author. But then, the Unmerciful Pruning knife ? you are so fond of. The style I should have liked best to have brought it out, provided I had the ability to imitate, was Dr. FRANKLIN'S "Poor Richard," more than the powerful and accomplished reasoner LOCKE "On the Understanding ;" as I cannot imitate either, I am compelled to make the best of my own Originality. Those knowing me and my ways, would say, "This is EATON All Over !" as many Gentlemen said who knew me, after reading my Almond Tumbler. We did not always agree in reading the Almond Tumbler over, owing to my obstinacy, which got your monkey and carbonic acid gas up, although I

never said so to you, I often said within myself (Harry don't "frown!") it is hard when a man gets his monkey up, at the same time to look exceedingly pleasant; excuse me here while I pour myself out a glass of wine to drink your health, wishing you a very large measure of good luck. I mentioned you would discover inelegancies, more than that, "rude ideas"; I was driven to that, to keep near my original ways, otherwise those that know my ways, would not have believed the animal wrote it. I am aware it is not written after the style that MAYOR in his frontispiece has, which is taken from BAKER'S Natural History. Curiousity and a fondness for novelty are implanted by Providence in the mind of man, to make him observe and examine things attentively; distinguish their various productions, form and structure; and admire their beauties, properties and use. While he is doing this, he is improving his judgment, performing his duty and making himself happy.

For the unkindness I received from some few, prior to my writing my Almond Tumbler, I promised them I would be a thorn in their sides, before I had done with them, that was the thorn that stuck in their sides, my Almond Tumbler 1851. My work on Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons 1852, stuck in their throats; the work I am bringing out now on Tame, Domesticated, Foreign and Fancy Pigeons 1858, I expect will stick in their gizzards, for endeavouring to open the eyes of the young and inexperienced, by instructing him to read, mark, learn and inwardly to digest; to open his eyes and look out of the windows of his understanding, to think for himself, not to believe all he hears at a Pigeon show gospel. Although my Almond Tumbler has now been published seven years it has not been answered.

I cannot find language to express my gratitude to the gentlemen of the press for the very high testimonials they have thought fit to give upon my works, the Almond Tumbler, 1851, also my work on Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons, 1852, with these flattering testimonials, combined with many entreaties from Fanciers from all parts of the country, urging me to bring out a work on Tame, Domesticated, Foreign and Fancy Pigeons, and if possible to give a more lengthy or greater amount of information on Toy and Foreign Pigeons; do you think I am to be cowed by unkindness? If you do, you do not know what the little Bit of Stuff that is writing is composed of. It is true I am too short for a Militia Man, I know I am tall enough for a superior officer; I believe many a brave soldier has lost his life on field of battle, simply because he was not so short as I am. I ask Do you think I am to be cowed by unkindness? Certainly not; it urges me on to accomplish my undertaking, and as Mr. MOORE beautifully observes in Paragraph 16, hoping it will have the desired effect of pushing on some abler pen, "I commit it to the candid censure of mankind."

Taken from FRANKLIN'S WAY TO WEALTH, or POOR RICHARD IMPROVED:—"Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other," as poor Richard says, and scarce in that; for it is true, "We may give advice, but we cannot give conduct." However, remember this, "They that will not be counselled, cannot be helped;" and further, that "If you will not hear reason, she will surely rap your knuckles," as poor Richard says.

Mr. MOORE in his Work, Paragraph 5, says, "I have wisely learnt from it to seek a proper refuge against any ill-natured censures." To this purpose I beg leave to prefix your name, Sir WILLIAM STAPLETON, Bart., to this Work, and to assure the World that you who have purchased Pigeons at very considerable prices do not consider the subject below your regard.

The question is where am I to fly for refuge against any ill-natured feelings, for having brought out my Almond Tumbler, 1851, my Work on Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons, 1852; also the present work on Tame, Domesticated, Foreign and Fancy Pigeons, 1858; also a set of 6 matchless engraved colored Portraits, "Life Size," viz.—The Almond, Black Mottled, Red Baldhead, and Yellow Beard Tumblers, Blue-pied English Pouter, and Black Carrier; also 3 different diagrams of building or fitting up a Pigeonary. I repeat where am I to fly for refuge against any ill-natured feelings. Simply I purpose screening myself, by throwing myself upon the candour of true, honest, upright and experienced Fanciers, acknowledging I owe an immense debt of gratitude to the following gentlemen who aided and assisted me, as will be seen by the paragraphs:—BRENT, BOYS, CORKER, and TONGE, Esquires; especially to BRENT and BOYS, Esquires. Should you experience

in reading it over, with as much pleasure as I experienced in writing and compiling the Work, we shall both have our reward.

I have endeavoured to glean and cater for you, my inexperienced brother in the Fancy (notwithstanding the sneers of some puppy would-be Fanciers), and believe me, I am as ever thine, to serve thee, a brother Fancier, who has devoted time, care, and attention to the subject; and believing it to be my last effort, and never attempt to write or compile another Work on this subject, but stick to my Poetry believing there is room for improvement; therefore, with grateful acknowledgments for past favors, take leave of you, my brother Fancier. Farewell for ever, hoping we may meet in a better place.

A brother Fancier,
JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

81, Upper Street, Islington,
London. (N.)

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FINIS.

TESTIMONIALS OF THE PRESS ON

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler. By J. M. Eaton, Islington, London.

BELL'S LIFE, July 6th, 1851. A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler.—By J. M. Eaton. Never was a man more enthusiastic than Mr. Eaton. No Arab of the Desert every attended with greater care to his Stud of thorough Breds, than does Mr. Eaton to his Stud. He informs us our good Queen is also a good Fancier, and that Napoleon the First was one.

MORNING ADVERTISER, July 19th, 1851. A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler.—By J. M. Eaton, Islington, London. "Let every Man speak of that to which he hath devoted study and attention ; I mean not mere book reading, but Observation and Experiment, and He cannot fail to add to the general stock of our knowledge."—So wrote John Locke.

And another great Man observes :—Too much praise is given to "mere" writing of words, in lieu of teaching things ; and such is the Book of Mr. J. M. Eaton on the Almond Tumbler. We can say, that without some spark of enthusiasm nothing excellent was ever produced ; for without it there can be no perseverance, and without perseverance Nature refuses improvements. To return to matter of Fact, Mr. Eaton's Pages give more minute, sound, practical and available Instruction and Advice as the means of procnring, propogating, preserving and discriminating the merits of the most beautiful of all the varied Breeds of the Columba, to wit, the Almond Tumbler, than any writer who has preceded him ; in fact, his is the Monograph on this Subject.

MINING JOURNAL, July 26th, 1851. A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler —By J. M. Eaton, Islington, London. In the treatment of the subject the author has avoided all ambiguity, eschewed Low and Flash Terms, and stated his advice and meaning throughout in plain English. In the description of the Almond Tumbler—the management of them in feeding, pairing, hatching, &c. their treatment under disease, &c. gives convincing proof of much practical experience in the subject he writes upon, and we strongly recommend the volume.

MORNING POST, Aug. 19th, 1851. A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler.—By J. M. Eaton. Pigeon Fanciers will derive

great pleasure, as well as very useful information from reading this book. We believe that Young Fanciers may safely place themselves under the guidance of our Author. His knowledge of the habits and character of the Bird appears to be complete, and he has taken pains to omit no point upon which his readers could desire information or advice.

THE WEEKLY DESPATCH, Aug. 31st, 1851. A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler.—By J. M. Eaton, Islington, London, The Author has, under the above title, published a very useful Manual regarding the "Almond Tumbler" Pigeon, of very beautiful form and peculiar plumage. The matter is ample in its range of subject, copious and plain, so far as the directions for management, breeding, training, &c. goes, and the evident pleasure the Writer seems to have taken in his subject makes his Book a very agreeable, as well as a very Instructive one.

TESTIMONIALS OF THE PRESS ON

A TREATISE

ON THE ART OF BREEDING & MANAGEMENT OF ALL THE KNOWN

TAME, DOMESTICATED, AND FANCY

PIGEONS.

BELL'S LIFE, January 23rd, 1853.

PIGEON FANCY.—We have just received a Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons, by Mr. John Matthews Eaton, of 7, Islington Green. The present is a work much wanted by the Fancy, and at present we have only space to say that the Author is a Fancier and Breeder, and thoroughly master of his subject.

MIDLAND SPORTING CHRONICLE, January 28th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing all the known Fancy Pigeons.—By John Matthews Eaton, 7, Islington Green, London. The subject could not have been better handled than it has been by Mr. Eaton, whose pages indeed, give "More Minute, sound practical, and available instruction and advice, as to the means of procuring, propagating, preserving and discriminating the merits" of the Fancy Pigeon than any writer we are acquainted with, Truly, his is the monograph on this subject. A well executed set of Engravings, showing the Fancier what to "Breed up to" accompanies the work.

BELL'S LIFE, January 30th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons. By John Matthews Eaton.—As an Instructor in the Art of Breeding and rearing every species of Pigeon, Mr. Eaton cannot be surpassed, and all his various knowledge he has scattered cleverly over the pages of the book under notice. Young and inexperienced "Fanciers," buy it immediately.

MORNING HERALD, February 1st, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons. By J. M. Eaton. Published by the Author, Islington Green. It may truly be said that the Author of this work thoroughly understands the subject which he employed his pen. No point, however minute, has escaped his observation in the Rearing, Managing, and Training of Pigeons of every kind and variety. He is an experienced Professor, and his Book may be consulted with confidence on all the matters relating to the Procuring, Propagating, Preserving, and Discriminating the merits of the Pigeon tribe. It is accompanied by Six finely Coloured Plates,—the Pouter, the Carrier, the Beard, the Bald-head, the Black mottle, and the Almond Pigeons.

MORNING POST, February 9th, 1853,

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons.—By John Matthews Eaton, Author of the "Almond Tumbler." Mr. Eaton is a very experienced and very enthusiastic Pigeon Fancier; and to those who desire information on the Breeding and Management of these "Beautiful Birds," we cannot recommend a better guide, with the notes added by John Boys, Esq., is convenient, and appears to render the book exhaustive of the subject. Portraits of splendid specimens accompanies the Volume.

SUNDAY TIMES, February 13, 1853.

A Treatise on Breeding and Managing Pigeons. By J. M. Eaton. There seems to be an inherent love amongst English people for rearing and improving the breed of Pigeons. The Book, as far as we are competent to judge, appears to be a complete practical guide for the inexperienced Pigeon Fancier, an elaborate Treatise by a man who has evidently devoted Time, Care, and Attention to the subject upon which he writes. Accompanying the work we have received some well-executed Engravings, Coloured after Nature, of the much-admired "Almond Tumbler" and other rare and beautiful varieties of Fancy Pigeons.

MIDLAND SPORTING CHRONICLE, March 4th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons. By John Matthews Eaton, 7, Islington Green, London. It is difficult to select one page more than another, where so much valuable theoretical and practical information prevails throughout. The same able and intelligent author has published a series of admirably executed Engravings, coloured to the "Very Life," which forms a beautiful and instructive Illustration of the subject which he has in the above Book executed with such masterly skill. They consist of Portraits—1, Carrier. 2, Pouter. 3, Bald-head. 4, Black Mottle. 5, Beard. 6, The Almond Tumbler. This proves a valuable and beautiful appendage to the studio of the Ornithologist.

THE FIELD, March 5th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing all the known Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons. Published by, and to be obtained of, the Author, John Matthews Eaton, 7, Islington Green, London. Mr. Eaton has dedicated his Illustrated Work to the Young Fancier, and appears to have had an especial Eye to giving him the advantage of all his own experience, derived from long observation and reflection. He points out the way of obtaining such birds as will lay a foundation, or improve a stud or strain of birds, and at the same gives the more experienced Fanciers (so often appointed Umpires) much wholesome advice. It appears that Mr. Eaton has dived deeper into the subject of Fancy Pigeons than any other author, and that he has seriously weighed every remark He has made before committing his Volume to Press.

THE MINING JOURNAL, March 5th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons. By John Matthews Eaton. It would only detract from the value which will doubtless be attached to the Publication by the "Fancier," and those intimately interested in the question, were we to attempt any extracts : indeed, to do the subject fair justice, the Treatise should be perused throughout, as the best evidence of how much may be said on a subject which at first might appear of so little significance. It should be observed that the Volume, in addition to the Plates introduced, is accompanied by elaborately Coloured Engravings of the Pouter the Carrier, the Beard, the Bald-head, the Black Mottle, and the Almond Pigeon, which are executed in a superior manner, and in themselves the full Value of the Treatise in question. In conclusion, We can recommend the Work to the perusal of all interested in the Study, and would say to others, in the various departments illustrative of Natural History or scientific uses, "Go Thou and do likewise."

THE GUARDIAN, March 16th, 1853.

A quaint, but clever and amusing little gentleman, by name Eaton, has, it seems, devoted himself heartily to the rearing of "Tame Pigeons," and the production of those marvels of Head, Beak, Eye, Carriage or Shape, and Feather, which so much attract the "Fancy." He has certainly a great deal to tell, and he tells it in a curious but entertaining fashion. The Notes are very Original, and contain a deal of Observations and curious Facts ; the half-dozen Prints which accompany the Volume are excellent—they are really Lovely Birds.

JOHN BULL, July 30th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons, carefully compiled from the best Authors, with Observations, containing all that is necessary to be known of tame, domesticated, and fancy Pigeons. By John Matthews Eaton, Author of the "Almond Tumbler."—Published for the Author. This Treatise, on a subject equally interesting to the World of Science and to the Fancy, and is well known among "Fanciers," has just received additional Illustrations from a beautiful set of Plates, in which the Author has immortalized several of the most singular and valuable specimens of the Pigeon Genus. Both the Book and its Pictorial accompaniments are deserving of all commendations.

COTTAGE GARDENER AND COUNTRY GENTLEMAN'S COMPANION.
October 20th, 1853.

It is the best and fullest Work which has yet appeared upon the subject, and with it are given a Portfolio of Portraits, beautifully Drawn and Colored, the "Size of Life," of the Almond Tumbler, Bald Head, Beard, Black Mottle, Carrier, and Pouter. Mr. Eaton is not a practised writer, and, therefore, there is a freshness and raciness about his rambling that disarms criticism, and **He is, in truth, the most vagrant of Scribes**—but there is a carelessness of Rules, and an earnestness of purpose, that defies and disarms Censure. One great Merit for which Mr. Eaton's Book deserves a position on the shelves of every Pigeon Fancier, arises from its value as a Record for upwards of 100 years, of the various Standards and points of Excellence in the different varieties. It is far from being the *ex parte* statement of the views and prejudices of an individual, that Authorities, past and present, *pro* and *con*, are fairly placed in review before the Reader, to whom Mr. Eaton then explains the reasons on which his own judgment would be grounded. We consider it the best Work that has hitherto appeared relative to Pigeons, because it is the accumulated experience of Practical Men arranged by one enthusiastically fond of the Birds concerning which he writes. This enthusiasm carries him beyond the bounds of sober judgment occasionally, but the Reader will consider this unpardonable, "even although he goes the length of admiring an Almond Tumbler" as the most beautiful of God's creatures, with the exception of "Lovely Woman."

MOUBRAY'S TREATISE ON DOMESTIC & ORNAMENTAL POULTRY,
By L. A. Meall. June 1854.

We also cheerfully acknowledge our obligations to a Treatise on Pigeons, by J. M. Eaton, 1852, which we recommend to those who desire further information, as being decidedly the most complete Book that can now be had on the subject; it contains a reprint of Moore's Treatise, 1735: its principal value, too, consists in the originally and practically useful information scattered throughout its pages.

THE POULTRY CHRONICLE, August 9th, 1854.

Mr. J. M. Eaton's Treatise on Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons, price 10*s. with colored plates (large as Life), to be obtained of the Author*, 7, *Islington Green, London.*—Is the best Work I know of. Mr. Eaton deserves the thanks of all Pigeon Fanciers for rescuing from the cobwebs and oblivion the original work of the late Mr. John Moore (1735), to which he has added, in the most honourable way all the additions of subsequent Authors, acknowledging each; and the Author has also added an excellent Treatise on the Almond Tumbler.

THE BOSTON AND LOUTH GUARDIAN, AND LINCOLNSHIRE ADVERTISER, September 20th, 1854.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame. Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons; to which is now added, *A Treatise on the Almond Tumbler,* with Colored Portraits (Large as Life), by Mr. John Matthews Eaton, of whom the Work may be had, at 7, Islington Green, London.—Price 10s. Post Free.

The first part of the Book before us is a re-print of Mr. John Moore's excellent Work, published 1735, which was supposed to be lost to the Fancy, but rescued from oblivion by Mr. Eaton's indefatigable exertions. He afterwards collated the Work with that of Mayor, 1765, Daniel Girtin, and those of other subsequent Authors, and being in possession of the Observations and Reflections derived from Fifty Years' experience in the Fancy, by John Boys, Esq., Mr. Eaton determined upon publishing the Work. The Work is very cleverly written, and there is a freshness and raciness about it which more than compensates for its rambling style, whilst the variety of matter brought together renders it the Text Book of the Pigeon Fancier: the general Reader will also find much instruction and entertainment in its pages. We believe Mr. Eaton is without a rival as Preceptor in the management of Pigeons, whose history he has for many years closely studied, and his experience is here, through his enthusiasm, placed at the disposal not only of the Pigeon Arbitrator, but the Young and Inexperienced Fancier. The judges of Pigeons may here learn upon what authority the Standard of Excellence is established; for the Author well observes:—"to judge only from the appearance of a bird, which may be very 'Pretty,' but yet far from the Standard, is a very

childish affair, and produces ill-will ; whereas, with a Standard the properties can be pointed out, on which the competing birds ' Win or Lose,' which must give general satisfaction."

After giving full directions on the building of Lofts, Matching, to distinguish the Sexes, Generation, Diet, and Diseases, commenting on the usefulness of Pigeons, concludes with a full description of the numerous Varieties ; also giving the Standard Points, giving full directions as to Breeding, including the Hatching and Shifting the Young, and the rule whereby to ascertain the future Color of the Young long before any signs of Feathers are visible, flying the Birds, &c. &c. concludes by some most valuable general observations.

It is almost impossible to make selections where all is alike valuable. In conclusion, we must not omit to draw attention to the Frontispiece, which is a Colored Portrait of an Almond Tumbler, and to the six other Colored Portraits, (Large as Life) which accompany the Work, illustrative of the Pouter, Carrier, Beard, Bald-head, Black Mottle, and the Almond, which are truly Works of Art, and well worthy of being Framed and Glazed, to ornament the drawing or other rooms of the Pigeon Fancier. The Portraits alone are worth more than twice the price of the Work.

THE LINCOLNSHIRE CHRONICLE, AND NORTHAMPTON, RUTLAND AND NOTTINGHAM ADVERTISER, October 13th, 1854.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons, by John Matthews Eaton. Published for, and to be obtained of, the Author, 7, Islington Green, London. Price 10s.

The Work before us is in two parts, the first being a re-print of a Work published in 1735, by John Moore, intituled "Columbarium, or the Pigeon-House ; being an introduction to a Natural History of Tame Pigeons, giving an account of the several species known in England, with the method of breeding them, their distempers, and cures ;" being the first Work ever published on Pigeons, with many valuable Notes appended by Mr. Eaton, together with a "Catena Aurea," of somewhat more recent writers in the same track, including Mayor and Girtin. The second part consists of "A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler, by John Matthews Eaton :" published in 1851, but now incorporated with Mr. Moore's Work. Mr. Eaton is evidently an enthusiastic fancier, and though unused to authorship, has braved the censure of his brother fanciers to aid the young and inexperienced in the Fancy, as appears from the Preface, wherein he assures the reader it was "no joke to bring out a work on the subject," for it made enemies of a few waspish, crabby old fanciers, who do not wish the young Fancier to know more than answers their purpose ; and who "did not believe that Mr. Eaton had the ability to produce such a work." Such praise from the Author's enemies must have been very gratifying to him, and we can assure our readers the Work ought to be in the hands of all Pigeon Fanciers and Students in Natural History. The Work is illustrated with a Colored Portrait, from life, of an Almond Tumbler, in the possession of the Author, and accompanied by a portfolio of exquisite engravings of different varieties of Pigeons. These last are portraits from life, and worth very considerably more than the price of the volume, and as we survey them, we know not which to admire the most—the Pouter, Carrier, Beard, Bald-head, Black-mottle, or Almond Tumbler—all are alike beautiful in form and colour, and high standards for the Fancier to breed up to. We do not know of anything so appropriate to the Smoke-room of the Gentleman Fancier as these beautiful Portraits, framed and glazed, which would supply him with materials for mental study, whilst he puffed away at the aromatic weed ; and they are also worthy a place in the Portfolio or Gallery of the Connoisseur of Engravings. At page 18, there is a laughable anecdote of the Author, when a school-boy, leaving home to angle without bait and knocking down a wasp for that purpose, whereby he caught a tartar, as he got severely stung by it, but for which we have not room, and conclude this notice by the following passage from the Almond Tumbler, which will also, in some degree, apply to the Poultry Fancier :—"I shall here endeavour to rivet, as it were, on the minds of those who will engage in this delightful study, some great facts ; the first thing especially to be attended to is the selection of really good birds : they should be young, healthy,

vigorous, and bred from as pure and as good a stud or strain as can be obtained. From the highly artificial state of the Almond Tumbler, in the present day, there is a tendency to degenerate, or throw back, as it is termed by the Fancy; for even when good birds are put together, they do not invariably throw birds equal to those they are bred from; but if inferior birds are matched together, the produce must necessarily be unworthy the attention of a Fancier. Nonpareils will not always produce nonpareils: but nonpareils cannot be expected from inferior birds. Much attention and great care are necessary with these birds, to insure success, especially if the young Fancier raises a standard in his mind to surpass those who have tried before him, and who has made up his mind not to rank second best; but the satisfaction of producing the best bird must be very great, and will amply repay him for all the care and labour that has been expended."

THE DOVER CHRONICLE AND KENT & SUSSEX ADVERTISER, October 14th, 1854.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons. By John Matthews Eaton, Islington Green, London. Price 10s.

Having read this interesting Treatise, we have much pleasuse in recommending it to our friends; while to the admirers of those beautiful birds, whether Fancier or Amateur, it will be found very valuable. We believe it to be the best book of the kind extant. It contains the whole of Mr. John Moore's Work on Pigeons, published 1735, to which Mr. Eaton has added all the additional information of subsequent authors, honorably acknowledging each. The Work also contains an excellent treatise on the Almond Tumbler by himself, of which variety the author is an enthusiastic Fancier and able Judge. The Work treats of the various sorts of Fancy Pigeons, and all things necessary as to their treatment and management. Seven large colored Portraits embellish and add greatly to the value of the work.

WORKS PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler, 1851.—incorporated in the Work on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, Foreign and Fancy Pigeons.

Also A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons, 1852,—incorporated in the Work on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, Foreign and Fancy Pigeons.

Also A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, Foreign and Fancy Pigeons, carefully compiled from the best Authors, with Observations and Reflections, containing all that is necessary to be known of Tame, Domesticated, Foreign and Fancy Pigeons in health, disease and their cures, with 30 matchless Steel Engravings, coloured. 1858.

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P.S.—Some of the Committees and Patrons of the Poultry and Pigeon Shows award Mr. EATON'S WORK ON PIGEONS or the PORTRAITS and DIAGRAM of a PIGEONARY, as an Extra PRIZE.